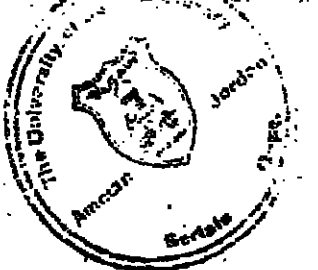


هنا من اجل



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Gorbachev receives Reagan letter

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Congressman Thomas O'Neill spent some three hours talking to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday and handed him a letter from President Reagan reaffirming support for a summit, U.S. officials said. Mr. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, was due to give a press conference later at the U.S. ambassador's residence. The note from Mr. Reagan was a follow-up to a letter which Vice-President George Bush delivered at the funeral of Mr. Gorbachev's predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko, a month ago. Mr. Gorbachev agreed in principle but no date or venue has yet been set. Mr. O'Neill, heading a 13-member delegation of U.S. legislators on a six-day visit to the Soviet Union, met Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Tuesday and discussed the Geneva arms control talks and the U.S. strategic defence initiative.

Earlier story on page 8

Gromyko to meet Shultz in Vienna

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz have agreed to meet in Vienna on May 14, TASS news agency announced Wednesday. The official agency did not elaborate except to say the two men would "review matters of common interest to both sides." Western diplomats have said Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko would meet in the Austrian capital to discuss a summit meeting between President Reagan and new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Graf has said that Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko had accepted Vienna's invitations to celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of the Austrian state treaty on May 15. Mr. Graf told reporters both men had indicated that during their meeting they would be discussing the possibilities of an early summit between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev.

Volume 10 Number 2843 AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY APRIL 11-12, 1985, RAJAB 20-21, 1405 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Diplomats congratulate Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received at his residence Wednesday heads of diplomatic missions and the directors of international and regional offices and organisations accredited to Jordan. Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Thani, in his capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps, delivered a speech in which he congratulated Mr. Rifai on his appointment as prime minister and wished the new government success. Mr. Rifai, in a reply speech, thanked the heads of the diplomatic missions and stressed Jordan's keenness on strengthening its relations with Arab and friendly countries. Attending the meeting was Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Bridges to close until Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across River Jordan will remain open to travellers to the West Bank until 9:00 a.m. today, Thursday, after which they will be closed until Sunday, according to the Public Security Department. The department requested citizens not to proceed to the two bridges during the closure period.

Swedish official to visit Baghdad

STOCKHOLM (R) — A senior Swedish Foreign Ministry official will visit Baghdad next week for three days of talks with the Iraqi government on prospects for ending its war with Iran, a ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Jan Eliasson, who ranks third in the Foreign Ministry, is to fly to Baghdad on Sunday. But officials stressed the two sides appeared no nearer a negotiated settlement.

U.S. selects new envoy to Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has selected its first ambassador to Iraq since the United States renewed diplomatic relations with that country on Nov. 26, a U.S. official said Tuesday. Under-secretary of State Michael Armistead said President Reagan would nominate David Newton, the current charge d'affaires in Iraq, to be the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

Syrian hijacker jailed in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A Syrian who hijacked a Saudi Arabian airliner to Turkey a year ago was Wednesday sentenced to eight years and four months in jail, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. Hidir Ahmad Mahesh was found guilty by a civilian court in Istanbul of diverting the Saudia TriStar with 301 people aboard on a flight from Jeddah to Damascus on April 5 last year.

Syrian cabinet sworn in

DAMASCUS (R) — Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm and new cabinet were sworn in before President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday, the official Syrian news agency SANA reported.

INSIDE

- * Accused disowns confession in Sartawi murder trial, page 2
- * Transport minister returns from Cairo after talks, page 3
- * Agreement possible on N.Ireland, page 4
- * There is a place where heroin gives orders, page 5
- * Mayotte, Edberg score victories WCT finals, page 6
- * Credit ratings of borrowing countries bounce back, page 7
- * Thatcher gives new momentum to British-Indonesian relations, page 8

Government to relax control over pricing

Basic commodities not to be affected Rifai promises free economy, urges private sector to assume share of responsibility

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday announced that the government would lift all restrictions covering prices of consumer goods which are not directly under its control but would retain its authority to fix prices for basic commodities imported by the government.

The move was immediately hailed by the private sector, and Chamber of Commerce Chairman Hamdi Tabba described the government decision as "positive and aimed at encouraging free competition which would ensure the consumers' welfare." In a meeting with the presidents and members of the Kingdom's chambers of commerce and industry, Mr. Rifai, who took office last Thursday, promised that within days his government would remove all obstacles impeding the functions of the private sector and called on the sector to shoulder its share in reviving the economy.

Israelis threaten retaliation if Shi'ites stage attacks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli security sources Wednesday said Shi'ite Muslim areas in South Lebanon "will cease to exist" if Shi'ite resistance men attack Israel after its troops withdraw, Israel Radio reported.

The sources, usually a euphemism for a senior Defence Ministry official who does not want to be identified, spoke at a briefing to Israeli political correspondents. If the resistance attacks continued, "the Israeli army will react in the strongest way with artillery and movement into (Lebanese) territory," the radio quoted the sources as saying. "We will make it clear to the Shi'ite leadership their area will cease to exist if our settlements are shelled."

The warning, one of the strongest issued by Israel to Lebanese Shi'ites, followed a suicide car bombing Wednesday in which at least 50 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in South Lebanon (See page 2).

The briefing coincided with persistent Israeli newspaper reports that the army will pull out of the Nabatiyeh area of central Lebanon within days. The region has been the scene of frequent resistance attacks.

Israel's coordinator on Lebanon policy, Uri Lubrani, said in an interview with the New York Times on Tuesday that his government had sent messages to the Shi'ite Amal movement and leaders of the Shi'ite community in South Lebanon and had offered to forego the "security arrangements" that the Jewish state was demanding as a precondition for its withdrawal from Lebanon provided that the Shi'ites undertook to halt attacks against Israel after the evacuation.

The government would only intervene in cases where businessmen were making "excessive profits" and would act "within limits" to block monopolies. He said that in order to revitalise the economy, the government will adopt a short-term and a long-term policy. The short-term policy would include decisions within the coming few days to remove all immediate impediments on the economy, he said.

The long-term policy will be embodied in the country's five-year national development plan in which the role of the private sector will be strengthened, deepened and widened, the prime minister added.

Karami boycotts cabinet, demands urgent moves to end Sidon fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Wednesday he would not attend further cabinet meetings until implementation of a cabinet decision to stop three weeks fighting in the southern port of Sidon.

Mr. Karami told reporters he made his decision after the cabinet listened to a report by the army command on delays in deploying extra troops to stop the clashes pitting rebel Falangist militiamen with the army and Palestinian fighters and their supporters.

"I will not attend the cabinet until all these problems are resolved," Mr. Karami said. "My attitude is clear and frank, namely to save Sidon."

Political sources said the army was unwilling to send extra troops in, as the cabinet had decided, because it wanted a political solution to the conflict. The last time the Lebanese army was involved in sectarian fighting in Feb. 1984, units in Beirut split along confessional lines. Minister of Education Salim Al

will be strengthened, deepened and widened, the prime minister added. Mr. Rifai said that the five-year plan will lay the foundation for the establishment of profitable projects which should ensure wide and quick development in the sectors of industry, trade, tourism, services and agriculture, in an atmosphere that encourages investment and provides the needed legal protection.

Free economy

Mr. Rifai said the government will support the private sector by ensuring its liberty of movement and action and by limiting the role of the public sector to planning, guidance and direction. He said the government support for the private sector is based on the country's economy being a free economy. The prime minister called on the private sector to share the responsibility with the government taking into consideration that public interest is a shared responsibility and that problems of a certain sector or the society should

not be solved at the expense of other sectors. He said he expected the private sector to respond to his government's attitude on equal basis in order to achieve His Majesty King Hussein's ambitions for a better future for Jordan and its citizens. Mr. Rifai said the government will cooperate with the private sector in defining problems and specifying solutions and added that "the government will put into immediate effect all what is agreed upon."

Mr. Tabba's said during the meeting that the private sector was willing to start a "new era of constructive development in cooperation with the government to ensure a stronger national economy." He reviewed the demands of the private commercial sector which included sharing the government in fixing prices and defining new procedures for import of goods, especially those which are not being produced in Jordan. Mr. Tabba expressed the readiness of the commercial private (Continued on page 2)

Hoss supported Mr. Karami in his decision, Beirut Radio said. The boycott is the gravest threat so far to the future of Lebanon's year-old "national unity" cabinet, already boycotted by three of its original 10 members. Mr. Karami, 63, serving his 10th term as Sunni Muslim prime minister, said he would continue private contacts to stem the fighting in Sidon.

Meanwhile, Sporadic shellfire broke a daylong ceasefire early Wednesday, and police upped the overall casualty toll in 13 days of fighting in Sidon to 59 killed and more than 260 injured. Gunfire and shell blasts were heard on the eastern outskirts of the southern Lebanese port city overnight and in the morning, signalling renewed fighting between Falangist militiamen and a coalition of Palestinian fighters and their supporters. Traffic was scarce on the streets and 70 per cent of the shops were closed in the provincial capital of South Lebanon.

Perez de Cuellar left Baghdad Tuesday, after also visiting Tehran and four other Gulf Arab states, saying he had made no progress towards peace.

He discussed efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war with British Foreign Office Junior Minister Richard Luce Tuesday during a stopover enroute to New York. A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Luce reiterated the British government's support for the secretary general's efforts to bring peace to the area during a 35-minute meeting at Heathrow Airport.

Moscow talks disappoint Dutch minister

MOSCOW (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said Wednesday he was disappointed with Andrei Gromyko's response in talks that focused on the Dutch position on U.S. cruise missile deployment. He repeated that if the number of Soviet triple-warhead SS-20s located in Europe by November exceeded last June's level, the Netherlands would go ahead with its siting of 48 missiles.

Emerging from his meeting with veteran Foreign Minister Gromyko, Mr. Van den Broek told reporters he had come to Moscow to clarify his government's point of view as an appeal to the Soviet Union to stop the build-up of SS-20 systems. "I have been somewhat disappointed by the reply of my Soviet colleague and I doubt very much whether this appeal is going to meet a positive response over here," he said.

Police said more than half of the 59 fatalities in Lebanon's third largest city were Palestinians killed at Sidon's suburban refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh. The latest deaths were eight villagers in the hilltop towns of Abra, Halieh and Qiyaya. Rebels of the mostly Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militiamen in the eastern suburbs, assisted by artillery units of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia, have been shelling 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh for the past 12 days.

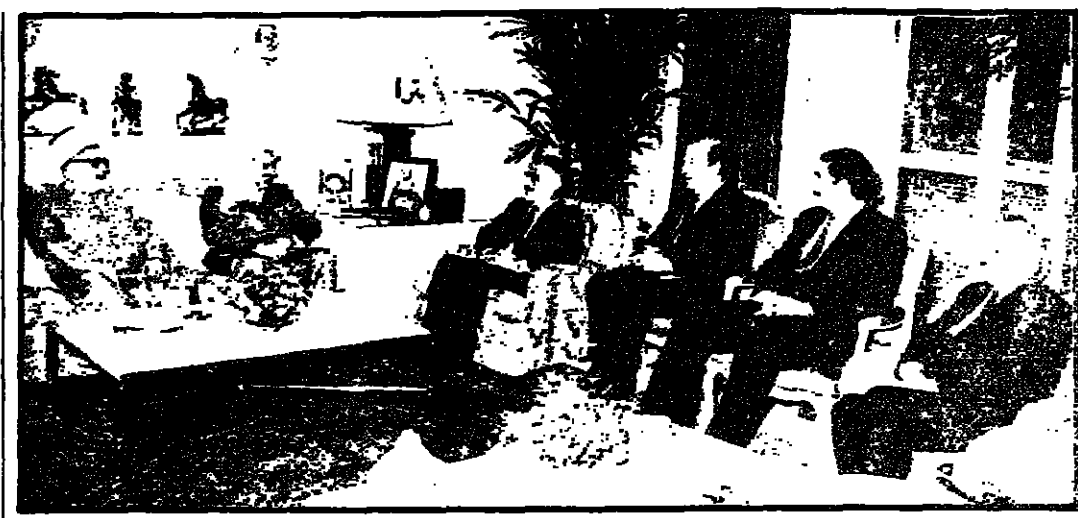
Lebanese politicians have accused Israel of provoking the fighting in order to create a permanent "front line" east of Sidon and have voiced fears that it could lead to a permanent partition of Lebanon. A conference of more than 50 senior Christian politicians and religious leaders on Tuesday accused Israel of instigating factional bloodshed in Lebanon.

The ministry spokesman gave no immediate reason for the Iraqi move beyond saying Mr. Arndt's actions ran "counter to diplomatic laws and norms." He said the Iraqi government had decided to lodge a "strong protest" with the Bonn government over the envoy's activities and he would have to leave the country within a week from Wednesday.

The envoy's activity is considered open interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a violation of diplomatic immunity which is supposed to be practiced according to international law and not to be exploited for practicing anti-state acts in the state they work in," the spokesman said. In Bonn, the West German government said it had no knowledge of any wrongdoing by Mr. Arndt but would study Baghdad's charges against him. A West German Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters a similarly-worded statement to that issued in Baghdad had been delivered to the ministry by the Iraqi embassy in Bonn.

"The Foreign Ministry has no knowledge of any activities by the charge d'affaires that might have been incompatible with his diplomatic status," the Bonn spokesman said. "The ministry will study the charges by the Iraqi government and is waiting for evidence to be presented in connection with the allegations made."

Gulf ministers call for end to war, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat (to the King's right) in a meeting attended by Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sa'eh (left), Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (to the King's left), Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Royal Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (Petra photo)

King, Arafat assess response to accord

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Wednesday held a "comprehensive review" of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a formula for joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said the two leaders reviewed the "Arab and international stands towards the agreement" and discussed "the steps for joint moves on the international arena."

The agency did not elaborate, other than saying that the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. He is also expected to meet with other Jordanian officials.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here earlier Wednesday on a three-day visit, is scheduled to meet with an eight-member team from the U.S. Congress on Thursday. The PLO chairman's close aide Nabil Amro said. Mr. Amro, a member of the Central Committee of Fateh, said the PLO leader's scheduled meeting with the U.S. congressmen was part of "continued contacts between the PLO and the U.S. government."

"Our channels are always open with the Americans," Mr. Amro said. "The meeting was scheduled to take place today (Wednesday), but was postponed until Thursday," he added. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy declined to confirm or deny the scheduled meeting. However, (Continued on page 2)

Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nuseibeh, Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Director of the General Intelligence Department Tareq Alaedini and Royal Court Secretary General Rajai Dajani on the Jordanian side. On the Palestinian side it was attended by Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sa'eh, PLO Executive Committee members Mohammad Milhem and Abdul Razzak Al Yahya, Mr. Arafat's political adviser Hani Al Hassan and Fateh Central Committee member Suleiman Shurafa.

It was the first meeting between the King and Mr. Arafat after they signed the Feb. 11 agreement. The King had earlier met "with Congressman Levine during which they discussed the recent developments in the area, particularly the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO."

Mr. Levine, a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and the subcommittee for Europe and the Middle East, also met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. He is also expected to meet with other Jordanian officials.

Baghdad expels W. German diplomat

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has declared West German Charge d'Affaires Helmut Arndt persona non-grata and ordered him to leave Baghdad within seven days, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said the action had been taken because of Mr. Arndt's "flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs." The ministry spokesman gave no immediate reason for the Iraqi move beyond saying Mr. Arndt's actions ran "counter to diplomatic laws and norms."

He said the Iraqi government had decided to lodge a "strong protest" with the Bonn government over the envoy's activities and he would have to leave the country within a week from Wednesday.

The envoy's activity is considered open interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a violation of diplomatic immunity which is supposed to be practiced according to international law and not to be exploited for practicing anti-state acts in the state they work in," the spokesman said. In Bonn, the West German government said it had no knowledge of any wrongdoing by Mr. Arndt but would study Baghdad's charges against him. A West German Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters a similarly-worded statement to that issued in Baghdad had been delivered to the ministry by the Iraqi embassy in Bonn.

"The Foreign Ministry has no knowledge of any activities by the charge d'affaires that might have been incompatible with his diplomatic status," the Bonn spokesman said. "The ministry will study the charges by the Iraqi government and is waiting for evidence to be presented in connection with the allegations made."

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here earlier Wednesday on a three-day visit, is scheduled to meet with an eight-member team from the U.S. Congress on Thursday. The PLO chairman's close aide Nabil Amro said. Mr. Amro, a member of the Central Committee of Fateh, said the PLO leader's scheduled meeting with the U.S. congressmen was part of "continued contacts between the PLO and the U.S. government."

"Our channels are always open with the Americans," Mr. Amro said. "The meeting was scheduled to take place today (Wednesday), but was postponed until Thursday," he added. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy declined to confirm or deny the scheduled meeting. However, (Continued on page 2)

Sudanese military ruler promises new government

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military ruler General Abdul Rahman Swaredhahab said Wednesday he was working to form a civilian government and promised a dialogue soon with rebel leaders in the south to end the two-year-old bush war.

Gen. Swaredhahab, quoted by Egypt's Middle East News Agency in a dispatch from Khartoum, told his first press conference since taking power in a coup last Saturday that a new cabinet would be formed after consultations with professional unions and political groups. He gave no firm date for restoration of civilian rule but said he was at present preoccupied with maintaining national unity and finding solutions to economic problems.

Political groups in Khartoum have asked Gen. Swaredhahab, who on Tuesday named himself president of a 15-man transitional military council (See page 2), to rescind a state of emergency and hand over power to a civilian government.

But the new leader rejected calls for an immediate hand over of power, saying he needed more time before it could be done. Gen. Swaredhahab, who last year commanded military operations against the southern rebels, said he has sent an envoy to meet rebel leader John Garang and agree on a date for negotiations to end the bush war, which is costing the government about \$350,000 a day.

Mr. Garang had warned the rebellion would resume in seven days if Gen. Swaredhahab failed to hand over power to a civilian government. Sudan campaigns for political, economic support, page 2

Soviet sentry who shot U.S. major faces charges

BONN (R) — A Soviet sentry who shot and killed U.S. army Major Arthur Nicholson in East Germany last month is facing disciplinary measures and may be court-martialled, according to informed Soviet bloc sources in Bonn. The sources, who said their information came from Soviet military officers, reported that the sentry was under arrest and likely to be charged initially with violating guard duty regulations. But they added the officers stuck by Soviet accounts that Maj. Nicholson was well inside a restricted military area at the time of the incident on March 24 and had ignored a warning shot from the sentry before he was fatally wounded. The U.S. has described the officer's death as murder. While admitting he was photographing Soviet military facilities, it has contended that he was not in a restricted area at the time.

Enjoy our Supper
Momo Pilo Italian Restaurant
Featuring
The Italian Gourmet Specialities
OPEN NOON & NIGHT
AMBAADOR HOTEL - Shmeisani Tel. 665161/62/63 Ext. 93

Sudanese emissary meets with Fahd Sudan to campaign for political, economic support

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — A member of the ruling Sudanese military junta, Lt. Gen. Yusuf Hassan Al Hajj was in Saudi Arabia Wednesday as the Saudi media reported that the new Sudanese leadership was planning a campaign for political and economic support in Arab, Islamic and "friendly" countries.

Gen. Hajj, who arrived in Riyadh late Tuesday, was immediately received by Saudi King Fahd. No details were provided by the official Saudi media on the talks that took place.

Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries to wish success to the new leadership in Sudan and to affirm its keenness to maintain the "political and economic" relations that prevailed during the rule of the overthrown Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri. The kingdom has been one of the key bankrollers of the former president.

Mr. Numeiri was overthrown Saturday in an army push led by his Defence Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. Abdul Rahman Swareddahab. As Gen. Hajj arrived in Saudi Arabia, his name was surfacing as one of the 13 army commanders Gen. Swareddahab chose to be members of a military council that would rule Sudan for a transitional period. The Emirates News Agency (WAM) meanwhile quoted the Sudanese media as reporting the

council would dispatch emissaries to "Arab, Islamic and friendly" countries to explain the dimensions of the recent developments in the African country.

The envoys would also affirm the "Arab character" of the new leadership and the "economic requirements" of the country, the reports said.

The military command has appealed to friendly states to buttress Sudan's efforts to contain the human losses resulting from the drought in Africa and the accompanying influx of refugees from across Sudan's eastern, western and southern borders, the agency said.

Meanwhile in Washington, the State Department said Tuesday it looked forward to a cooperative U.S. relationship with the new Sudanese military government led by Gen. Swareddahab.

It indicated that Washington was gaining confidence that Gen. Swareddahab would continue the pro-Western policies of Jaafar Numeiri, who was overthrown last weekend while heading home

from a U.S. visit.

Sudanese statements, spokesman Edward Djerejian said, had clearly expressed "the desire of the new Sudanese government for continued cordial, cooperative ties with Sudan's traditional friends, including the United States."

"We are very pleased to receive these assurances and look forward to a cooperative relationship with the new government," he added.

The United States has long had close ties with Sudan which, after Egypt, is the second biggest recipient of American aid in Africa.

Mr. Djerejian noted that Khartoum had issued two statements on the new government's orientation and had expressed interest in good relations with the United States.

On Sunday, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, David Shinn, met Gen. Swareddahab at the coup leader's request.

The State Department said Gen. Swareddahab "expressed interest in the maintenance of continued good relations with the United States and appreciation for the assistance the United States has provided in recent years."

Mr. Djerejian said Tuesday the U.S. Ambassador to Sudan, Hume Horan, would return to Khartoum as soon as possible. He has been unable to fly to the capital because strikes have closed the airport.

Lebanese resistance says suicide bomber was 16-year-old girl

BEIRUT (R) — Anti-Israeli guerrillas say a beautiful 16-year-old girl rammed a car laden with explosives into an Israeli military convoy in South Lebanon, causing 50 casualties.

The claim was made to a news organization in Beirut by an anonymous caller from the "Lebanese National Resistance Front", an umbrella group that coordinates claims of resistance attacks on Israeli troops.

No confirmation was available in Beirut. In Tel Aviv, the Israeli military said two Israeli soldiers had been killed and two wounded in a car bomb attack which had also killed the woman driver, although it was not known for certain whether the explosives had been detonated deliberately.

The Beirut caller said the girl, Sana Mhaydali from the Israeli-occupied Zahran region of South Lebanon, died blowing up a Peugeot 504 car loaded with 300 kilograms of explosives amid a concentration of Israeli trucks and armoured vehicles.

Soon after the telephone claim, a beautiful girl identified as Sana Mhaydali and wearing camouflage uniform, with long black hair and wearing a red beret, appeared in a pre-recorded television interview and said she had chosen martyrdom "because I am carrying out my duty to my people."

Sitting at a desk, she said that she hoped her soul and those of martyrs preceding her "will form an explosive mixture that will blow up as an earthquake on the

heads of the enemy. "I am very relaxed as I go to do this operation which I have chosen because I am carrying out my duty to my people."

Mhaydali said she was 18 although a profile of her distributed to Beirut media gave her age as 16 and said she was born in the Shi'i village of Anqoun, south of Sidon. The Beirut caller said the attack took place on a mountain road near Jezzine, 44 kilometres south east of Beirut, as Israeli tanks, trucks and tracked vehicles were withdrawing in preparation for the Israeli army's pullout from South Lebanon.

The attack was the third car bombing against the Israelis in less than a month. On March 10, 12 Israeli soldiers were killed and 14 injured in a suicide attack at Metush, South Lebanon, and two days later an Israeli soldier was killed in a similar incident.

The attack raised to 647 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since the 1982 invasion.

Mhaydali said: "I am from the group that decided on self-sacrifice and martyrdom for the sake of liberation of land and people... because I have seen the tragedy of our people from the humiliation of occupation and oppression, the killing of children, women and old men."

"I ask all the young girls and youths of my country to join the National Resistance Front because it alone can drive the occupiers out of our land."

King, Arafat assess response

(Continued from page 1)

The spokesman said that David Obey, head of the House of Representatives Appropriations Sub-Committee for Foreign Operations, was expected to arrive Thursday at the head of a seven-member delegation.

Apparently Mr. Levine and the seven others arriving Thursday are expected to meet Mr. Arafat. The U.S. embassy spokesman also said that Washington State Senator Daniel Evans, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is expected to visit Amman later. The spokesman did not give a date for Sen. Daniel's visit.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy is expected to visit Amman and other capitals in the area next week to explore the possibilities for eventual direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to solve the Middle East problem, U.S. embassy sources said.

Secretary of State George Shultz may visit Amman and Cairo later depending on the outcome of Mr. Murphy's talks in the region, other U.S. sources said.

Reports from Washington have indicated that Mr. Murphy's visit to the region was primarily aimed at finding a common ground between the U.S. and Israeli insistence that they would not, separately or collectively, talk with any members of the PLO and the Arab demand that the PLO should be included in any talks towards settling the Palestinian problem.

Khaled Al Hassan, a senior

member of Fateh, the dominant commando movement in the PLO, said in Paris last month that the PLO was willing to drop its insistence on direct representation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for preliminary talks with the U.S. before bringing in Israel and all interested parties to direct peace talks.

The Feb. 11 agreement calls for an Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and for the creation of a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan on the occupied West Bank in exchange for peace with Israel.

King Hussein has supported Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's initiative calling for preliminary talks between the U.S. and a Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team.

On his arrival at Amman military airport, Mr. Arafat told Petra that the Feb. 11 accord was "an important achievement" and that the accord has been approved by the Fateh Revolutionary Council which met in Tunis last week.

In Tunis, the 70-member Revolutionary Council approved the Feb. 11 accord with Jordan and stressed the importance of a full PLO representation at a future Middle East peace conference.

Following the meeting in Tunis, Khaled Al Hassan told Reuters that the council's endorsement of the agreement was "final" and dismissed criticism of the agreement by hardline factions in the PLO. "There can be no argument now," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The council, in a statement issued after the meeting, stressed the importance of the Soviet Union

and its role as a guarantor in the called-for international conference in the Middle East. Such an international conference was the only framework for peace, the council statement said.

The statement condemned a U.S. policy in the Middle East, saying that Washington was "aiming at forming a joint (Jordanian-Palestinian) delegation, away from the PLO, with the objective of nullifying the leading role of the PLO and its representation," according to a Reuters dispatch from Tunis.

In his statement to Petra upon arrival in Amman, Mr. Arafat also referred to the situation in Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon, which have the target of recent assaults by Israeli forces and their Lebanese militia allies, and said the "Zionist enemy has concentrated its savage attacks on Al Bass and Bourj Al Shamali in Tyre", which are still under the Israeli occupation.

The attacks, Mr. Arafat said, were coordinated with the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" and rebel fighters in the Falangist "Lebanese Forces" loyal to Samir Geagea, who broke away from the Falange Party leadership of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Mr. Arafat also told Petra the Israelis were also hatching plots to evict Palestinian refugees living in Sidon and the Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps in the southern Lebanese port city's suburbs.

Sources close to Mr. Arafat said he will be leaving Amman for Baghdad, Kuwait and other Arab capitals in the region to hold talks on the latest developments in the area.

Gulf ministers call for end to war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Gulf Information Ministers ended their two-day meeting in Riyadh with a call for an end to the 4½-year old Iran-Iraq war, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The ministers, including Iraq's Latif Nassif Al Jassam, also called on Iran to respond to peace efforts and negotiate with Iraq under United Nations auspices, the agency said.

The United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have all tried to mediate in the conflict, so far without success.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has just ended visits to Tehran and Baghdad and said he had made no progress towards a peaceful settlement.

But he told a press conference in Baghdad he was encouraged by the fact that Iran and Iraq "say they want peace, and both say that my efforts should continue."

Meanwhile in Washington a U.S. Navy analysis of the attacks being made on oil tankers in the Gulf has concluded that Iraq is inflicting more damage than Iran — but that both countries appear to be avoiding the use of weapons that would be likely to sink the giant ships.

Navy officials, who agreed to discuss their conclusions only if not identified, said Tuesday the French-made Exocet missiles being used by Iraq were generally not powerful enough to sink a huge oil tanker. The Iranians,

meanwhile, are using U.S.-made Mavericks that were designed as anti-tank missiles, not for use against ships.

"We believe the obvious intention of both sides is not to totally interdict the flow of oil or totally destroy these ships," said one high-ranking officer. "It appears they are trying primarily to inflict some damage as retaliation for other attacks."

"If they really wanted to go after these tankers, they could do so," the officer continued. "They would use torpedoes or dive bombs or they would fire more than one missile. The ships are undefended — sitting ducks, really — and there's nothing to stop a full-on attack."

Accused Palestinian disclaims confession in killing Sartawi

ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (R) — A Palestinian militant being re-tried for the murder of a leading Palestinian moderate disowned his earlier confession, saying it was prompted by his craving for glory.

The accused, who said his real name was Youssef Al Awad, told the court he was on holiday in Albufeira when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Issam Sartawi was shot at a hotel in this southern seaside resort in 1983.

"I had absolutely nothing to do with what happened," he said.

Awad, who said at his earlier trial more than a year ago that his name was Mohammad Hussein

Rashid, told the court that Mr. Sartawi had been condemned to death as a traitor to the Palestinian cause in 1974 because of alleged links with U.S. and Israeli intelligence.

He said his delight at the killing moved him to confess to it when he was arrested shortly after. "I wanted to have the honour of being thought to be the killer," he told the court.

Portugal's supreme court annulled his first trial, at which Awad was sentenced to three years jail for having a false Moroccan passport.

The hearing is expected to last at least a week.

Government to lift control on pricing

(Continued from page 1)

sector to secure the availability of certain strategic commodities required by the local market.

President of Amman Chamber of Industry Issam Badier reviewed the demands of the industrial sector, which included protection of a local industry, promoting exports, offering incentives to exporters and regulating trade exchange.

A debate followed in which Minister of Industry and Trade Raja'i Muasher, Minister of Finance Hana Odah and Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour participated.

Mr. Rifai said that the government will have "an open door policy" in its dealings with the private sector and will open the door for Jordanian expatriates to invest

in development projects.

Later, in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Tabba'a explained the obstacles that have been hindering the private sector from contributing to its demanded role in the national economy.

"The government's main task should be that of an observer and a financier of the economic activity something, which lacked under the former government," he said.

"The former government, at a time, 'took over the role of the private sector and became the merchant,'" Mr. Tabba'a said.

"Thus the economic formula in the country became imbalanced and the government became a partner on an unjust basis especially since it was exempted from taxes and from customs on the imports and this somehow created an ob-

stacle." The private sector, he said as a partner had to pay all kinds of taxes, whereas the government, a partner in a joint enterprise, was exempt from paying taxes.

Referring to Mr. Rifai's announcement government plans to abolish fixed prices on most commodities and retaining the fixed prices on the basic food commodities Mr. Tabba'a said: "In terms of pricing the commodities the private sector believes that the government is responsible for providing the basic commodities with fixed prices taking into consideration the average income."

"Yet, he added the Chamber of Commerce believes that there are luxury commodities such as apples, which the private sector could import and supply.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:40 Children Programmes
18:10 Walt Disney
18:40 Local Programme Agriculture
19:30 Programme Review
19:40 Week's Event
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:00 Local Programme
21:15 Tomorrow's programme
22:10 Arabic Film
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Film continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
18:45 Interview with Rene Albo
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Charles in Charge
21:00 Towards 2000
21:30 All The Rivers Run
22:00 News in English
22:15 Dempsey and Makepeace

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Talking Points
14:30 Coconut Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 25 Years of Rock
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 From the Holy Koran
19:00 Newsweek

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
07:00 Newsweek 07:30 International Soccer Special 07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours News Summary 08:30 Peabody 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Nature Notebook 09:40 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours News Summary 10:30 Short Takes 10:45 Network UK 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 International Soccer Special 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45 Monitor 13:00 News Summary: Handel and the Oratorio 13:30 Yes Minister 14:00 World News 14:05 News about Britain 14:15 News Ideas 14:25 The Week in Wales 14:30 Assignment 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Kicking Up The Dust 17:00 News Summary: Outlook 17:45 Land of a Thousand Dances 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 The Pleasure's Young 18:20 Belshazzar 19:00 World News 19:05 News Summary: Outlook 19:15 Assignment 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:05 Meridian 20:40 The Week in Wales 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Discovery 22:00 News Summary: Outlook 22:45 Stock Market Report 22:45 Report on Religion 23:00 World News 23:30 24 Hours News Summary 23:30 Business Masters 24:00 News Summary 00:05 In the Meantime 00:15 A Jolly Good Show 01:00 World News 01:05 The World Today 01:25 The Week in Wales 01:30 Financial News 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up 02:00 World News: Commentary 02:15 Meridian Navy Programme 02:30 Meridian

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* Omani book and paintings exhibition at Yarmouk University.
* An exhibition of Spanish national costumes at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL WEEK

* Omani cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre.

EXPOSITION

* Exposition on French marines at the Holiday Inn in Aqaba.

FRENCH FILM WEEK

* French film week at the Holiday Inn in Aqaba.

LECTURE

* Mrs. Carrie Gustavson-Gaube will lecture on "The first results of the excavations 1984 and 1985 in Tell Esh-Shume North" at 8:00 p.m. at the Goe-Institute.

CINEMA

* "Pauline 1880" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 643771
American Centre Library Tel. 641520
British Council Tel. 636147-3
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 642033
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777
Hayat Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664231
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 636111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 643555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 812561.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubdah, 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 651757.
Church of the Resurrection (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Orthodox Church of the Redeemer Jabel Amman, 625383.
Amman Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 712561.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 711751.
Assiout International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

06:06 Sunrise (Fair)
06:10 Sunrise (Sirir)
06:17 Sunrise (Dhuhr)
12:57 Sunrise (Dhuhr)
16:13 Sunrise (Asr)
19:45 Sunrise (Maghreb)
20:27 Sunrise (Isha)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 532250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:15 Bucharest (RO)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
10:30 Agaba (RU)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
10:45 Kuwait (RU)
10:45 Jeddah (RU)
10:45 Cairo (RU)
11:00 Dhahran (RU)
11:00 Beirut (RU)
11:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
12:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
12:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
16:45 Cairo (RU)
16:45 Baghdad (IA)
17:15 Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo (BR)
17:40 Larnaca (CY)
18:25 Cairo, Agaba (RU)
18:25 Athens (RU)
18:30 New York, Vienna (AU)
18:40 Belgrade, Istanbul (RU)
18:55 Amsterdam, Larnaca (NL)
19:05 Athens, Damascus (OA)
20:15 Athens, Kuwait (RU)
20:35 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
22:35 London, Larnaca (BA)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
01:45 Cairo (RU)
02:10 Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LJ)
06:40 World News 14:00 News about Britain 14:15 The World Today 12:30
08:00 Beirut (RU)
08:05 Agaba (RU)
08:05 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RU)
12:15 Agaba, Cairo (RU)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Athens (RU)
13:40 Paris, London (RU)
13:50 Brussels, Frankfurt (RU)
13:40 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, (GF)
15:30 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Civil Defence Amman 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 181, 199
Civil Defence Qusayirah 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 622090
First aid 636341
Blood bank 775111
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622090-3
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 622090-1
Traffic police 622090-4
Electric Power Co. 636381-2
Municipal water service 77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre - 813813-32
Khalid Masmoudy, J. Amn 644281-4
Al-Hilal Maternity, J. Amman 642441
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171-4
Shamsi Maternity 669131
University Hospital 645845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Amman 667158
Al-Munasher Hospital 667227-8
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Al-Hilal, Al-Munasher 777101-3
Al-Badr, J. Amman 775111-3
Army, Madinet 891611

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fine with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, which will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman 17/25
Aqaba 17/20
Dahran 17/20
Deserts 9/27
Jordan Valley 16/29

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in J.S.
Belgian franc 65/ 65.5
Egyptian pound 114.6/ 115.5
Egyptian guinea 300/ 304
French franc 42/2 42.5
Iraqi dinar 446.6/ 454.3
Italian lire (per 100) 20.4/ 20.7
Japanese yen (per 100) 159.2/ 160.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1346.6/ 1353.3
Lebanese lira 22.3/ 23.8
Omani rial 1173.3/ 1180
Qatari riyal 112.1/ 113
Saudi riyal 112.4/ 113.5
Swedish crown 44/7 45.1
Swiss franc 152.6/ 153.8
Syrian lira 35/ 36.1
U.A.E. dirham 110.3/ 111.2
U.K. sterling pound 489.8/ 491.7
U.S. dollar 406/ 408.5
W. German mark 128.9/ 129.5

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Civil Defence Amman 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 181, 199
Civil Defence Qusayirah 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 622090
First aid 636341
Blood bank 775111
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622090-3
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 622090-1
Traffic police 622090-4
Electric Power Co. 636381-2
Municipal water service 77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

Princess Basma opens new classes for hearing impaired

ZARQA (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Basma Wednesday opened new classes at the Zarqa hearing-impaired society. During her visit to the society, Princess Basma was briefed on the modern audio equipment used at the centre and also inspected its various sections. The JD 6,000 equipment was donated by the Amman Rotary Club in support of the society.

President of the charitable societies federation in Zarqa Mr. Jazi Al Majali delivered a speech during a ceremony held on the occasion. He welcomed Princess Basma and outlined the federation's future goals and aspirations including an aim to establish a recreational area and a national park for the public of Zarqa as well as supporting charitable societies in the city.

Also speaking on the occasion was the head of the Amman Rotary Club Sameer Seigali who pointed out the club's activities in supporting various charitable societies which look after needy and handicapped people.

Chairman of the Zarqa Hearing-Impaired Society Mohammad Al Sukhni said that the society has implemented part of its plans and is looking forward to providing more and better services to hearing-impaired children. He also thanked Princess Basma for patronising the celebration.

Attending the ceremony were the Ministry of Labour and Social Development under-secretary, the Zarqa district governor, the chairman of the Zarqa Development Corporation, the president and members of the Zarqa chamber of commerce and a number of invited guests.

Symposium on children

Princess Basma will Saturday open a symposium on the role of voluntary societies in meeting the needs of children and youth in Jordan which will be held by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) in cooperation with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and another 93 persons were injured during last week's road accidents, according to the Public Security Department weekly bulletin. The bulletin said that 122 of the total number of accidents took place in Amman.

PSD incinerates seized narcotics

AMMAN (Petra) — JD half a million worth of narcotics were burnt Wednesday in the kilns of the Jordan Cement Company, according to sources at the Public Security Department (PSD). The sources said that final sentences have been passed against those convicted in dealing with the drugs. The narcotics comprised 1,361,010 tablets of captagon, 977 grammes of hashish, 13 grammes of heroin and 247 other tablets. The burning operation was carried out under the supervision of the assistant director of public security.

Court sentences heroin traffickers

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mustafa Ali Ramadan to eight years in prison with hard labour for trafficking heroin. Mohammad Omar, a fugitive from the law, was also sentenced by the court to life imprisonment with hard labour on a similar charge. The military governor endorsed the sentences.

Laham pledges support for hotels

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting Director of the Tourism Authority Rafiq Ali Laham said that the government will work towards improving the level of domestic and foreign tourism and will also do its utmost to handle all issues to help hotels maintain their standards. This was announced during a meeting of the Jordan Hotels Association general assembly held Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. A new two-year administrative board was elected during the meeting.

Sharkas inaugurates book exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, Wednesday opened a book exhibition at Al Qadisia college. The exhibition, which runs for one week, falls within Jordan's celebrations of national book week.

Amin discusses preparations for Arab Environment Day

IRBID (Petra) — Preparations for Arab Environment Day, which is due to be held April 24 were discussed in Irbid Governorate Wednesday.

Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin stressed the need for direct cooperation between government departments and the public in order to keep the environment healthy and clean. Mr. Amin called for a hygiene campaign, especially since summer is

approaching and suggested that entrances to villages and cities should be restructured, cleaned and maintained to improve the attractiveness of towns.

Mr. Soufian Al Tell, director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment, announced that the department has completed a working paper on problems and solutions to environmental hygiene.



PRINCE HASSAN VISITS CAMPUS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (left) Wednesday listen to a briefing on the University of Jordan's present programmes and specialisations.

its future plans and the services it provides in scientific research fields. Prince Hassan was also briefed on various scientific projects and then paid a visit to the nuclear accelerator at the Physics Department of the Faculty of Science. (Petra photo)

Amman Municipality, ADC plan to upgrade old quarter downtown

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Municipality is planning to establish a public park and a children's library at the site of the old municipality building and Philadelphia Hotel, which was recently appropriated by the government, an authoritative source at Amman Municipality said Wednesday.

The source told the Jordan Times that a building from the old municipality, on the eastern side of the site, will be pulled down as part of the project. The building previously housed the health affairs department.

This building, in addition to half of the old Philadelphia Hotel, which was purchased for approximately JD one million, are in the process of being demolished, the source added.

Amman Development Corporation (ADC) Director General Sami Al Rashid has recently announced that the ADC is in the process of drawing up studies and final designs to upgrade the region between the old municipality building and Raghadan bridge in

down town Amman.

Mr. Rashid said that the cost of the project is estimated at JD 12.5 million and that it is expected to be completed after two stages, each stage lasting 30 months. The first stage will cost JD six million while the second stage will cost JD six and a half million, he said.

The project, when implemented, is expected to give the oldest quarter of the city a touch of

beauty, besides highlighting the tourist and archaeological side of the city, Mr. Rashid said. The region, which is the eastern entrance to Amman, includes several historical sites such as the Roman Amphitheatre, the stage and the mermaid's path.

The project will also include car parking facilities, stores, a public park, children's playgrounds and recreation areas for the public.

Badawi concludes official visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Badawi left Amman Wednesday afternoon after a several day visit to Jordan during which he met with a number of senior Jordanian officials.

Mr. Badawi said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that his visit to Jordan was successful and pointed out that preparations were made for the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee, scheduled to be held in Amman towards the end of April under the chairmanship of the prime min-

isters of the two countries. The committee will discuss achievements with respect to relations between the two countries and will also discuss new fields for bilateral cooperation, according to Mr. Badawi.

He expressed hope that the inauguration of the sea-land link between the two countries, scheduled for April 25, will open the way for further cooperation. Mr. Badawi was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Saleh Al Zu'bi, Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbeh and embassy staff.

Obeid returns from sea-land transport talks in Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid returned to Amman Wednesday after an official visit to Egypt during which he discussed procedures and arrangements for operating a land-sea link between Jordan and Egypt.

The minister told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that he conducted a series of talks with Egyptian Minister of Transport and Communications and Sea Transport Suleiman Mutwalli and a number of senior officials. The talks focused on preparations to operate the projected line, including defining dates and arrangements of travel procedures. Mr. Obeid said. They also discussed the regular tourist route between the two capitals which is expected to start working soon after the joint inauguration of the ferryboat line on April 25 by King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the presence of Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

The minister said that the Egyptian side approved several documents supporting the sea-land transport agreement and new sub-contracts related to cargo transport and tourist travel.

He said that the projected line is expected to boost the volume of trade exchange between the two countries and will reduce cargo expenses, freight and travel

fees by 50 per cent. The minister said that both sides have also agreed to extend the validity of insurance documents inside each other's borders to include passengers, cargo, trucks and cars.

Regarding the difference in prices of petroleum products, Mr. Obeid said that an agreement has been reached on the issue and that it will be disclosed in due course.

The minister refuted a claim that Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and the Egyptian airline would be affected by the new sea-land link and said that he believes the two companies would receive a boost due to "tourism impetus" and the inevitable increase of numbers of passengers from neighbouring countries.

Mr. Obeid met Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and tackled issues to be discussed during the supreme joint committee meetings which are expected to convene in Amman this month.

WAJ managers complete administration workshop

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

The workshop, jointly organised by the WAJ and the World Health Organisation (WHO), was held to prepare senior WAJ managers to train staff and personnel at the authority with the aim of improving their skills and efficiency and strengthening human resources at the WAJ and he the World Health Organisation (WHO), was held to prepare senior WAJ managers to train staff and personnel at the authority with the aim of improving their skills and efficiency and strengthening human resources at the WAJ.

"The ultimate aim of the workshop is to set and define the authority's plans to achieve the major goal of water and sewerage for all by 1990," Mr. Howard Gibson, workshop organiser and WHO management specialist told the Jordan Times. This in turn, he added, is part of the United Nations' international drinking water supply and sanitation decade, 1981-1990, and WHO's "health for all by 2000" campaign.

During the workshop, ten sen-

ior managers were given training sessions in order to become WAJ management trainers and to subsequently hold further workshops for other colleagues.

Under the motto of the "right man in the right place," WAJ President Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani has instructed these ten managers to run one week management action planning workshops for 20 other middle managers working at the authority.

"During the workshop we tried to research management tools and approaches which other countries and institutions had found to be successful and to choose those which culturally are adaptable to the WAJ," Mr. Gibson said. "It has been proved that in public administration, it is much better to emphasise manpower rather than task management," Mr. Gibson said. It is necessary, he continued, to attract, motivate and retain good staff to give their best and to create better results by addressing areas of interest.

At the end of the workshop the WAJ president held a graduation ceremony in which he distributed certificates to the participants.

Queen Alia Fund — a vital contributor to social progress, development

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

On the occasion of Jordan's Social Work Week, the Jordan Times outlines the activities of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund which, under the chairmanship of Her Highness Princess Basma, plays an important and active role in providing assistance to needy sectors of society.

AMMAN — In almost every developing country, the race for modernisation and industrial development tends to leave vital aspects of the social structure in a neglected state, and, as the race gathers momentum, it becomes increasingly difficult to make up for the gap between social development and the implementation of modernisation programmes.

A well-defined and balanced central approach towards tackling the problem from its very roots and following it up with effective long-term programmes to involve as many citizens as possible in social work should be one of the national priorities of every developing country, and this is precisely what the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund has been doing over the years, says Dr. Zaki Ayoubi, a member of the board of trustees of the fund.

In a preface to the fund's annual report for 1984, Her Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the board of trustees, says, "Jordanians are increasingly aware of the assertion by His Majesty King Hussein that the essence of progress and development cannot be measured in terms of material aspects, but rather in terms of human effort, the extent of people's involvement and disciplined work."

The aim of the fund, which was established in 1978, is to "mobilise the various sectors of voluntary social work to meet basic social needs and to participate in the development of the Jordanian society," adds Princess Basma.

Fruitful year

"The past year had been one of the most fruitful years for the fund; thanks to the tireless efforts of Her Highness Princess Basma," Dr. Ayoubi told the Jordan Times. "We saw a number of ambitious projects take physical shape and now we intend to concentrate our efforts on assessing the results of what we have been doing and to offer further assistance to ensure that the projects achieve their desired objectives as well as continue to extend our technical and financial support for private voluntary organisations, especially in the rural areas."

In its annual report for 1984, the fund recalls that its most outstanding accomplishments include the setting up of eight centres offering a wide range of services and facilities and special education for the physically handicapped, deaf and mentally retarded and social services for rural women and children. The centres, which are now being run by Jordanian organisations, include the Amman Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, the Yarmouk Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, Al Raja Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of the deaf in Yajouz, the Mu'ta Centre for Special Education in Karak and four basic social services centres in Madaba, Hisban, Ma'een and Mleiha. A ninth project, the Mafrag Centre for Social Services, is expected to be completed in the second half of

this year.

Financial assistance

Some of these centres have been established with financial assistance from various Arab governments while the others are partly financed by the fund itself. For instance, the Amman and Yarmouk centres were built with assistance from the government of the Sultanate of Oman, Al Raja Centre was financed by the government of Qatar and the Iraqi government offered financial aid to help the fund set up Al Mu'ta Centre, the report said.

The four basic social services centres in the Madaba region were jointly financed by the fund and the Caritas Society, the report added.

As the names suggest, the Amman and Yarmouk centres care for the physically handicapped by providing them with educational, medical, cultural and recreational facilities to make "the handicapped people useful members of the society," Dr. Ayoubi said. "Every citizen has his or her own role in society and being handicapped should not be a barrier for them to be integrated into the mainstream of social development," he said.

Kindergartens, adult-literacy programmes, health and social education and vocational training programmes are the focus of the four centres in the Madaba region. Most of these programmes are primarily aimed at rural women and children.

Extending support

"Establishing such centres and setting them in motion is only part of the fund's activities," said Dr. Ayoubi. According to its 1984 report, the fund was also busy extending technical and financial support for various private voluntary organisations. It also organised training courses to develop the skills of personnel working with the disabled, kindergarten teachers and leaders and administrative staff of these organisations, the report said.

In April 1984, the fund, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, held a symposium on the various social service institutions in Jordan and drew up a comprehensive study. It also prepared a study on the level of training of personnel working,



Her Highness Princess Basma

with the physically handicapped and arranged for a two-week visit by directors of institutions for the disabled to similar organisations in Britain.

A total of 78 Jordanian organisations benefitted from the fund's technical assistance programmes and 60 of these institutions also received financial assistance. The fund's report said about JD 71,000 was spent to support projects of these 60 organisations, from Irbid in the north to Karak and Ma'an in the south of the Kingdom.

The financial aid offered also covered a varied range of activities by the institutions. For instance, some organisations received funds to complete their building plans, while some others received toys, books, furniture etc. Still, some other centres, which offer vocational training programmes in typing, sewing or weaving were supplied with equipment to support and expand their activities.

The fund's technical assistance is offered in three forms: consultations and advice, engineering assistance and training of personnel.

The fund's "social work team" pays periodical visits to various institutions and set up consultation sessions with the people running them to discuss various aspects of the programmes. The team reviews the programmes and suggests what could be done to improve them or to introduce new programmes, thus paving the way for financial assistance, if needed, to support such activities.

The engineering assistance offered by the fund is mainly technical details and advice on how to go about expanding the area available to the centres, and how to best utilise available facilities.

Seminars, training courses

In addition, various personnel from these institutions are invited

to attend symposiums, seminars and training courses in specialised fields to acquaint them with new skills and techniques in dealing with the physically handicapped, the deaf and the mentally retarded and ways to improve their work in their respective fields.

In effect, the fund assumes the role of an umbrella organisation guiding and assisting the work of private voluntary organisations through a well-defined approach, in conformity with Jordan's five-year development plans. Dr. Ayoubi said. "Apart from extending support to existing organisations, we also encourage the establishment of more and more centres of similar nature in the rural areas to reach as many citizens as possible," he said.

The fund's annual report sets out a working plan for 1985 and outlines its proposed programmes for the year 1985 in three fields:

Projects: To evaluate the services and programmes offered and carried out at the eight existing projects and maintain technical and financial assistance to ensure that these projects achieve their goals, and also to determine the priorities of projects in line with Jordan's next five-year development plan (1986-1990).

Support to voluntary organisations: To focus more on the rural and remote areas and offer support to voluntary organisations there. The fund has selected 60 voluntary organisations to offer assistance in the year 1985.

Studies, research and seminars:

a symposium on the "Organisation and Management in Special Education" was held in

cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in March. It was attended by experts from Jordan and a number of Arab countries.

A seminar on the "role of voluntary organisations in meeting the needs of childhood and adolescence" is being scheduled to be held later this week.

The International Parenthood Federation, the Jordan University and Yarmouk University and various concerned ministries and departments are cooperating with the fund in organising the seminar.

Another symposium, on the "Role of Community Development Centres in Serving their Local Communities" is scheduled to be held later this year.

The main source of finance for the fund to support its programmes is earnings from investments and private contributions from local and Arab sources. In 1984, the fund spent about JD 245,000 on its projects and financial support to various institutions.

The board of trustees of the fund is headed by Princess Basma and includes Mrs. In'am Mufti, special adviser to Her Majesty Queen Noor, Mr. Walid Asfour, former minister of industry and trade, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Chairman Al Ghandour, Jordan Television Director General Munir Durrah and businessmen Sa'ad Al Tal and Mr. Hassan Mango, in addition to the serving ministers of labour and social development, finance, planning and industry and trade, and Dr. Ayoubi.

TO LET

Two bedroom furnished partments. 6th Circle, opposite Garden City (no telephone). Rent JD 2,500.- per year.

Tel. 817121

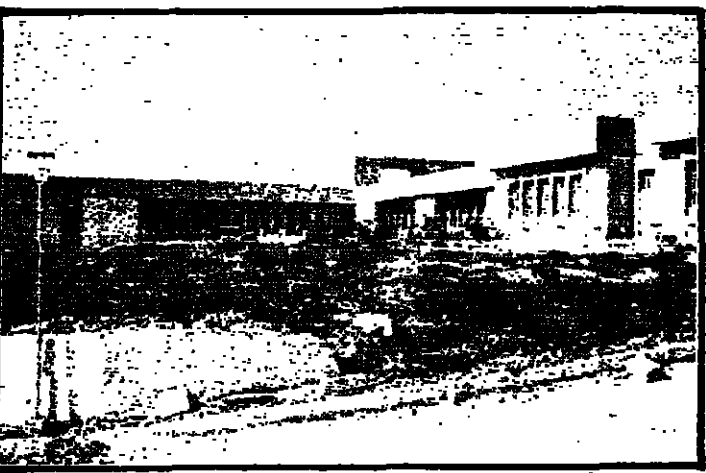
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CENTRE IN AMMAN Cordially invites

All Ev. Luth. English and German speaking persons to the ecumenical services on Good Friday & Easter as follows:

- 1) Good Friday service 12-4-1985 at 11 a.m. with Holy Communion.
- 2) Easter Morning service, 14-4-1985 at 9.30 a.m.
- 3) The ordinary Sunday ecumenical service is held at 8 p.m.

For more information, please phone Rev. Numan Smir.

Telephone 811295



The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund centre in Amman (J.T. file photo)

CORFU

Greek Tauerna

CORFU GREEK TAVERNA

Open daily: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. & 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Come and try 30 different Greek dishes for only JD 5.450 at our tauerna, located 2nd Circle, Jabal Amman.

Res. Tel. 641585

* Fully licensed restaurant

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAD**
 Board of Directors: **JUMA A. HADAD**, **KAJA ELISSA**, **MOHAMMAD AMAD**, **MAHMOUD AL-KAYED**
 Editor: **GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**
 Senior Editor: **RAMO G. KBOURI**
 Editorial and advertising offices: **Journal Press Foundation**, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
 Telephone: 466320, 466265 Telex: 2497 ALRAJ 30
 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan
 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays. Subscriptions and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Words are not enough

UPON Jordan's request, the Arab League met in Tunis on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the situation in South Lebanon and what could be done to end the suffering of the Palestinians in the refugee camps there. As the meetings were going on, reports of more fighting and more shelling of the camps were continuing to come in. These camps have been the target of attacks by dissident Falangist forces and the Israeli army which have also attacked the Lebanese government troops in the Sidon region.

Apart from the shelling and bombing raids in Sidon and north of it, the Israelis continue their atrocities against the inhabitants of South Lebanon, demolishing homes, detaining people and innocent civilians and wreaking further havoc throughout the occupied area. The "iron fist" policy, the Israelis like to call it.

What Lebanon needs at the moment is speedy solutions and quick actions that can alleviate the sufferings of the people and end the Israeli occupation. What the Arab countries are required to do is to extend support to Lebanon's government to help it assume control over all parts of the country and offer protection to the Palestinian refugees in the south.

The call for the Arab council meeting came from Jordan because the Kingdom cannot be truly concerned about the fate of those refugees towards whom Jordan feels a special commitment. The call and the meeting were only a beginning and a first step. What should be done is in fact the more important issue.

The meeting is now over, and the Arab delegates condemned the attacks on the civilians and the refugees and they also denounced the United States' policy in Lebanon because it continues to provide protection to Israel, encouraging the Zionist state to pursue its criminal acts. The Arab council has also decided to take the matter up with the U.N. Security Council and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

But what we had hoped for was more concrete measures and practical steps that could offer Lebanon and its people the hope and encouragement that they need to fight the occupation and restore their unity and sovereignty and at the same time give the Palestinians the protection they so badly need and require from all of us.

After all, the fate of the refugees is a matter of national interest and joint Arab efforts are required wherever such interests are concerned.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Deir Yassin — a Zionist crime

TUESDAY MARKED another anniversary of the massacre of Arab inhabitants in the Palestinian town of Deir Yassin in 1948 at the hands of the Zionists who invaded Palestine. The killing of so many men, women and children in that massacre was aimed at terrorising the rest of the Arab population and forcing them to abandon their homeland. That massacre was the beginning of a long series of massacres committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians in and outside Palestine.

Deir Yassin stands out as a witness to the barbaric and atrocious nature of the Zionist enemy which continues to commit crimes against the Arab population of Palestine since 1948. The killing of innocent civilians in cold blood paved the way for the murderers to assume power in Israel, thus presenting to the whole world strong proof that the Zionist state has been established on bloodshed, and founded on the ruins of Arab homes and Palestinian suffering.

The terrorists who committed the crimes and later assumed the leadership of the Zionist state found friends among other nations who continue to provide them with the means for continuing their atrocities today against the Arab people in Palestine, Lebanon and other neighbouring states.

Al Dustour: Iran resists peace

IT IS regrettable to see U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar failing in his mission to end the Gulf War. His failure following talks with leaders in Tehran and Baghdad is no doubt due to Iran's intransigence and its desire to pursue the fighting unless its own demands are fulfilled.

The regime in Tehran realises that it will be impossible for its demands to be met because they clearly violate international principles and laws, and despite that the Iranians reiterated their demands to the U.N. chief, and so wrecked his peace-making mission. Many peace mediators before De Cuellar have failed to make the Iranian budge from their positions and opt for peace, though like De Cuellar, the peace mediators went to Tehran with good will and genuine desire to see an end to the bloodshed.

Sawt Al Shaab: Revising economic policies

PRIME MINISTER Zaid Al Rifai Wednesday embarked on a series of meetings with representatives of various economic activities in Jordan to discuss ways of overcoming problems and obstacles impeding the revival of the economy which faced difficulties recently. Needless to say that the present government has inherited a very difficult economic situation resulting from random planning and confused ways of handling economic problems that cropped up in the past. The country also has been affected by the world economic recession and bore part of the adverse results of the Gulf War and its impact on the Arab Gulf states. Jordan is a country with meagre natural resources and, so it becomes imperative upon its leaders to find effective means, and to adopt wise methods for investment to lessen the economic burden.

The government is now keen on revising previous plans and economic projects in the light of the discouraging results they led to. Of course, the government will direct its attention to the private sector, which has the most influential effect on the economic activities of Jordan. Helping the private sector to flourish again means building bridges of mutual trust with the government and launching genuine cooperation for serving the national interests.

The King's letter to the prime minister provided for this orientation and the government is now embarking on the new task with determination to bring about more progress for the country.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

The Zionist lobby is as powerful as ever

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — THE TWO big Middle Eastern news items in the American press late in March were the Iran-Iraq war and the ravages perpetrated by the Israeli army in southern Lebanon. The coverage of both says something about changing attitudes in the American media on the Middle East.

When that terrible war broke out in September 1980, the U.S. media reflected fear that the war could provoke another oil crisis. Today that fear has vanished. The American media now reflect a belief that no matter what happens in the war, oil for Western economies will not be catastrophically affected. There is a tremendous amount of non-Middle Eastern oil now being lifted and refined, and with demand down, no shortage is anticipated.

Does this mean the American media are indifferent to

who "wins" in that war? No. One can see from major television coverage that the media are quite content that, once again, Iraq has beaten back an Iranian onslaught. There are no more suggestions as there were in 1980 that maybe an Iranian victory would not be so bad — suggestions made because Iraq was considered perhaps the most determined opponent of Israel in the Middle East. Now Iranian fanaticism is seen as the top enemy in the Middle East, and Iraq is definitely regarded as a lesser enemy.

But the dislike of Iranian fanaticism is not reflected in the usual approval of Israeli policy in southern Lebanon. The press has reported in broad and accurate detail the killing of Lebanese villagers by Israelis frantically shooting at any target they see. It has reported on Israeli depredations against mosques, like playing

disco music from minaret loudspeakers. And it has reacted with anger and astonishment at the killing of two journalists working for the CBS television network. And even though the two men killed were Lebanese and not Americans, the American media world reacted with outrage.

Six years ago soldiers of the late Nicaraguan dictator shot an American journalist in the back as he lay on the ground. Millions of people saw it. That was a turning point in Somoza's fate. American public opinion turned against him.

Killing of a few more people might sound like nothing to Arab people in the Middle East who have suffered so much killing and tragedy. But as history teaches us, mass killings can often make no historical difference, but little incidents can. Little as this incident was in southern Lebanon, it came at the same time as the American

public saw on their screens Israeli soldiers acting little different from the Germans in Poland forty five years ago. One has to understand this curious desire of Americans to have heroes. It is a part of our history. For more than four decades, the Jews who flocked to Palestine were presented to the American people as brave freedom fighters trying to find a home for an oppressed people. We Christians had oppressed the Jews and German Christians had killed six million of them. All they wanted, so the propaganda went, was a little home for their people. What about the Arabs? Well, most Americans saw them like the Indians whom we ourselves swept away in the 19th century in our colonisation of the West.

That image had been changing ever since the invasion of Lebanon. But it vanished in the month of March when the American media let the Ame-

rican people see that Israel intended to create a desert in southern Lebanon so that its own towns across the border would be safe.

The Zionist lobby is as powerful as ever. Most members of Congress are terrified of it (the Zionists have shown they can defeat congressmen they do not like). Nevertheless, when the lobby, through its henchmen in Congress, stretches out its hands for more billions for an economy that does little more than manufacture weapons and pay the salaries of bureaucrats, new and angry thoughts are beginning to rise. Americans do not like to be blackmailed, and while they will squander vast amounts of money on their heroes, as they do on their children, they will balk at paying off claimants with no honour.

Never mind the pro-Israeli rhetoric that continues to come

out of the mouths of the highest American officials. None of them is going to risk the wrath of the Zionists, for fear that other henchmen of theirs might find ways to get a new "Watergate" type of scandal going. The recent history of the U.S. government has shown that even the president is not safe from scandals. As a new "peace process" is developing, Washington officials are going to move very cautiously.

Nevertheless, minds are changing, and one sees it in the changing views presented on TV screens and in newspaper columns. The next change in the media will be, I predict, the first signs of anger at Israel. Already one can detect a few faint signs, but all it needs is another incident like the killings in southern Lebanon to move to that next stage in the gradual deterioration of the U.S. marriage with Israel.

In Lebanon make it public that parked car is yours

By Rima Salameh
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Newspaper photographer Ahmad Azakir swiftly parked his car in a west Beirut neighbourhood so he could film a demonstration. When he returned, he found the window on the driver's side smashed.

"It didn't take long for Mr. Azakir to determine what had happened. Militiamen, fearful that the car had been rigged with bomb and abandoned, broke their way in to check it out.

"I got very angry at them," Azakir recalls. "It is not fair. I am not wealthy, and I had to pay to get a new window."

The fact is that Lebanon has seen so many car bombings in recent years that most drivers have learned that before they leave a parked car, they must alert nearby store owners or apartment building managers that the vehicle is not one to cause worry.

Since the start of this year alone, there have been 17 major car or truck bomb explosions in Lebanon, causing more than 160 deaths and injuring at least 350 others.

There also have been several failed bombings and car bombs that exploded prematurely killing the would-be bombers. A few, including the attack March 10 against Israeli troops near the border, involved suicide drivers. No one is

sure exactly when the first car bombs were used, but police records indicate that they have been used for more than a decade.

Sometimes they have been used for political reasons, such as the series of car bomb attacks on Druze institutions late last year and early this year, or the 1983 and 1984 truck bombings of the U.S. embassy buildings. Other times the goal is economic, such as ridding a building of squatters so the owner can reclaim his property.

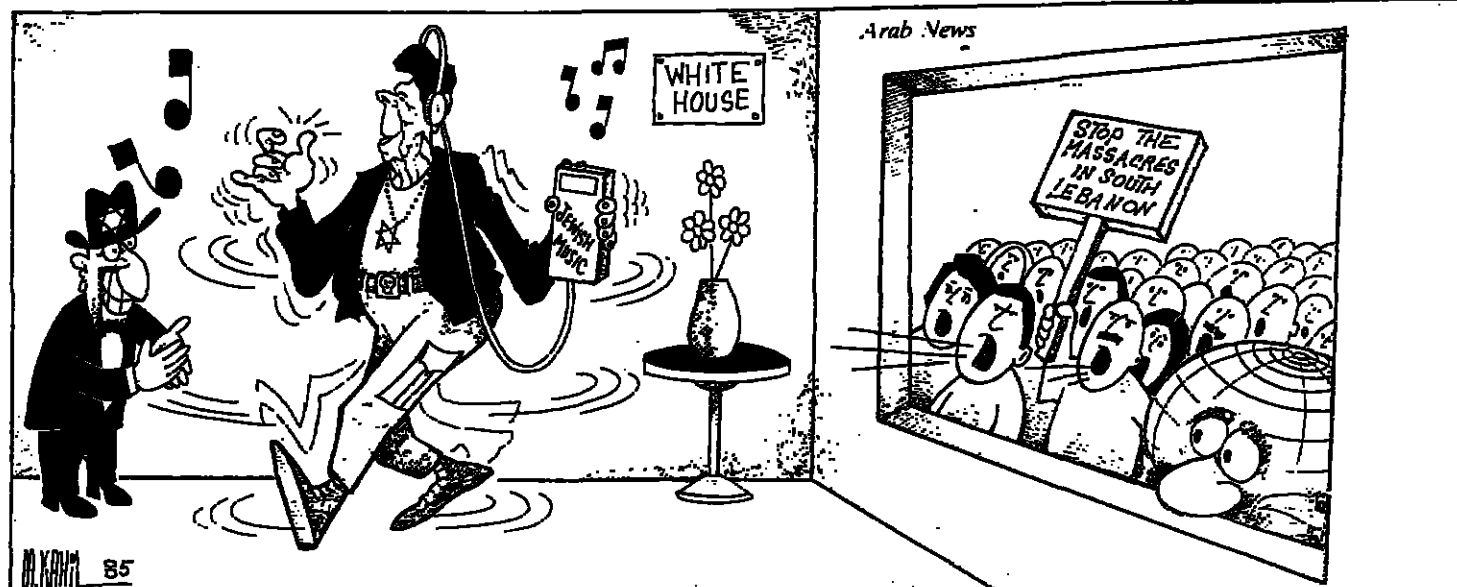
Regardless of the purpose, the public has become increasingly fearful of the possibility of car bombs because of the widespread devastation they cause.

"When we hear shelling we take shelter," said one Beirut woman who spoke on condition she not be identified. "But you can never know when a car might blow up."

Some residents of West Beirut, where car bombings have occurred most often, are known to avoid certain streets that they fear could be prime targets — those with political offices or gambling casinos or bars that have become targets for extremists.

For others, however, car bombs are just part of Lebanon's violence after nearly 10 years of civil war and must simply be lived with.

Shooting, with automatic rifles or rocket-propelled grenades, are a regular — and often unexplained



— feature of life in Beirut. Sticks of dynamite also are thrown almost nightly, either for political reasons or to force payment of protection money.

A pharmacist, who escaped injury on March 8 when a massive car bomb went out in the neighbourhood of Ghobeiri, said that "car bombs, in my opinion, are no different from shells or explosions. Nothing will scare me."

Seventy-five people were killed and 265 wounded in the Ghobeiri blast, many of them women and children leaving a school study class.

There have been few arrests of any of the perpetrators of car bombings either in Beirut or elsewhere in Lebanon, which competing militias have made anarchical in recent years.

Police sources, who insisted on anonymity, said that most of the vehicles yused in the bombings are late-model cars that have been stolen and equipped with false license plates. Often the colour has been changed.

The sources said that TNT has been the explosive of choice in Lebanon. A considerably more powerful explosive, hexogen, also

has been used, notably in the Oct. 23, 1983, truck bomb attack on the U.S. Marine headquarters that took the lives of more than 240 American servicemen.

Almost all of the ingredients are easy to come by in Lebanon, where weaponry has been fed to combatants by a number of supportive foreign countries. One security source in the past noted that the quantity available is so great that "Lebanon is a net exporter of explosives."

People have taken a number of steps to protect themselves as much as possible.

At first people put large stones in front of their homes and businesses to discourage parking. Now, they are creating permanent barriers with steel posts sunk into streets, often linked by heavy chains.

In the Hamra neighbourhood, the main shopping district in west Beirut, these barricades are numerous enough to exacerbate an already severe parking shortage.

Ahmad Haidar, manager of an optical shop, said that the posts, while causing inconvenience for his customers, "make me feel much better."

Agreement on Northern Ireland possible

By Colin McIntyre
Reuters

DUBLIN — Despite public denials on both sides, there are growing signs that the British and Irish governments are moving towards an agreement aimed at ending 15 years of bloodshed in Northern Ireland.

Irish government sources said a three-pronged agreement was being discussed that it was hoped would be acceptable to the Protestant majority and Catholic minority in the province.

A bloody stalemate has reigned there since 1969, when demonstrations by Catholics against what they saw as widespread discrimination during 50 years of heavy-handed Protestant rule sparked violence that has so far claimed over 2,400 lives.

Any agreement would have to satisfy not only both religious communities, but also the Irish and British governments themselves, whose interests will not

be easy to reconcile.

Dublin wants a say in running the province so that it can protect the interests of Catholics while Britain insists that nothing should dilute its sovereignty over Northern Ireland.

Also forming an interested party is the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Nobody seriously believes that any agreement thrashed out by Dublin and London will immediately end the IRA's war against the British, which has been fought spasmodically since Ireland was divided and the south became independent in 1921.

The hope is that if a system of government can be created which satisfies Catholic nationalists, the guerrillas who thrive on their present frustration and alienation will be isolated and eventually neutralised.

If the reported initiative does emerge, it will be Britain's eighth attempt since 1972 to break the stalemate, and the first initiative

involving the Irish Republic.

Both governments were quick to play down press reports about an agreement, which first appeared in a British newspaper. One top British official described them as "overblown" and "well ahead of the game".

A well-placed Irish government source said that while there was "a fair bit" of common ground between the two governments, there were still major points of difference.

However their comments did little to stem the flow, and late last month the Irish press newspaper said Britain was offering to create a political structure which would give Dublin something just short of joint authority over Northern Ireland.

The idea of joint authority, or "sovereignty" over the north was first raised in a report by the main Irish nationalist parties last year, but it was rejected out of hand by Mrs. Thatcher at a meeting with Irish leader Garret Fitzgerald last

November.

Speculation that since then some substantial step towards a deal had been taken was sparked by a surprise visit to Dublin last month by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Under the new agreement he was discussing, the reports said, there would be regular meetings between British and Irish ministers on security, legal and police matters.

These talks would extend already close cooperation between the two countries in fighting Republican guerrillas like the IRA and loyalist paramilitary groups ranged against them.

Irish involvement in "policing" Northern Ireland would answer frequent complaints from Dublin that the overwhelmingly Protestant police force discriminates against Catholics.

Dublin levels the same charge against the Ulster defence regiment, a locally-recruited army unit used in security work.

Italian doctor spun web of international intrigue

By Kevin Costelloe
Associated Press

ROME — Francesco Pazienza spun a web of international intrigue that ran from the collapse of Italy's largest private bank, to the Vatican and to his self-proclaimed role in freeing a kidnapped U.S. army general.

Now the 39-year-old doctor from southern Italy is in a federal jail in New York, waiting for an April 19 extradition hearing after his arrest last month.

Two high-powered Italian investigators have made a trip to New York and Washington, trying to pave the way for Pazienza's extradition to Italy where prosecutors want to question him about a string of scandals.

Pazienza, from the tiny village of Monteparano near the toe of the Italian boot, earned a medical degree but never practised medicine. Instead he launched a career in international finance, using his fluency in at least four languages — including Arabic and English — to do business in the Middle East and France.

In 1978, the baby-faced bac-

helor returned to Rome and quickly ingratiated himself with the leaders of what is called the "muddy underground" of Italian politics and finance.

Pazienza's lifestyle soon included luxurious apartment in Manhattan, a yacht, bodyguards, a bullet-proof car, a leased airplane, influential friends and use of the diplomatic area at Rome's airport.

He also worked his way into the upper echelons of Italy's military secret intelligence services (SISMI).

"For me the arrest of Pazienza, a personality at the centre of so many stories we have investigated, was a positive surprise," said Chamber of Deputies member Tina Anselmi, a Christian Democrat.

She led a parliamentary commission that investigated the super-secret P-2 Masonic Lodge, which has been accused of tax evasion, bribery and conspiracy to bring down Italy's constitutional government, and linked to right-wing terrorism. The now-outlawed lodge's members included many of Pazienza's friends

and associates.

"The parliamentary commission has asserted that the P-2 was an instrument of corrupting and corrupted secret services," says Ms. Anselmi. "Pazienza surely had a role in those secret services."

Prosecutor Domenico Sica last October in a warrant cited evidence linking the former deputy head of SISMI and the agency itself to Pazienza's escape from an Italian jail in the summer of 1982.

Pazienza formally has been charged with corrupting the secret services, espionage and revealing state secrets.

The charges come as part of an ongoing shakeup of the intelligence services, long suspected of having aided Italian right-wing terrorists.

U.S. and Italian investigators also want to question Pazienza about his close business relationship with Roberto Calvi, the chairman of Banco Ambrosiano who was found hanging by the neck from a London bridge in 1982. Pazienza, who has been charged in Italy with participating

in a fraud against the bank, was seen in London several days before Calvi's mysterious death.

When bank examiners discovered Banco Ambrosiano's \$1.2 billion in bad loans to several dummy companies including some owned by the Vatican, the government liquidated it.

Where the money went is something Italian investigators say they hope Pazienza will help to clear up. The Vatican, while saying it was a victim of Calvi, paid nearly \$250 million to creditors of Banco Ambrosiano as "a goodwill gesture."

Pazienza has claimed ties to high-ranking U.S. officials and financiers, and even said he used his network of contacts to locate kidnapped U.S. Brig.-Gen. James L. Dozier.

Gen. Dozier was snatched from his home in northern Verona by Red Brigades terrorists on Dec. 17, 1981, and freed in a daring police raid on a Padua apartment used as a hideout 42 days later.

However, Italian officials deny that Pazienza was instrumental in the discovery of the hideout.

ANC still major force in S.African politics

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Twenty-five years after the South African government outlawed the African National Congress (ANC), the exiled organisation has won mass support among the country's black community, political analysts say.

Government sources call the ANC the world's least successful "terrorist" organisation, significant only because they allege it has strong Soviet backing.

But analysts say academic research suggests it would have strong electoral support among South Africa's black majority if it were legalised and blacks were given the parliamentary vote.

When the popular City Press newspaper asked its mainly black readers earlier this year to name the leader they would vote for if they could, the decisive victor was Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader who has spent the past 20 years in jail.

Fatima Meer, sociology professor at the University of Durban-Westville, told Reuters: "Twenty-five years ago Nelson Mandela was not a massively popular figure."

"The ANC is tremendously relevant now, probably more so today than at the time of its banning. It has grown in its impact on popular minds," she said.

The ANC and its less well-known offshoot, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), were banned on April 8, 1960.

A peaceful defiance campaign by both organisations against apartheid racial segregation laws had ended in violent clashes with police throughout the country.

When 69 black demonstrators were shot dead in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, in March 1960 there was an international outcry and business slumped due to a massive loss of foreign investor confidence.

The government declared a state of emergency and banned the multi-racial ANC and PAC. Since then, both organisations have survived in exile although analysts say the ANC is by far the

more prominent since its multi-racial ideology has made it easier to win foreign diplomatic and material support.

The PAC could still have an important influence on the development of black politics once black people had the vote, analysts say. "The PAC is still respected," said Prof. Meer.

But without substantial foreign support it has fragmented further through internal battles in exile. Robert Schrire, politics professor at Cape Town University, described as surprising the unity which the ANC has maintained since it turned to guerrilla activities after it was banned.

Analysts estimate more than half the group's \$100-million 1983 budget went to its guerrilla wing but say that little has been achieved in terms of the ANC's 1969 plans to move from sporadic sabotage towards full-scale guerrilla war.

Independent analysts do not accept the government view that the ANC is behind rioting which has swept South Africa's black townships, killing 300 people in the past year.

They blame the unrest on black communities' deep resentment of apartheid and its effect on their living conditions.

"I do not think one needs to see any links between domestic unrest and the ANC," Prof. Schrire told Reuters.

"The most important consequence of the ANC's banning was that it ended legitimate black politics and ushered in a set of circumstances which had to lead to violence. It has precluded negotiations for 25 years now," Prof. Schrire said.

"It internationalised South African politics and created opportunities for the Soviet Union to play a role in southern Africa," he added.

Hendrik Van Der Merwe, an honorary sociology professor at Cape Town University who maintains strong links with the ruling National Party despite his opposition to apartheid, had a well-publicised meeting with ANC officials in Lusaka last December.

Where millions are made

There is a place where heroin gives orders

Efforts to stem the flow of heroin from Pakistan, which supplies 80 per cent of the drug sold in Britain, Europe and the United States, are being thwarted by corruption. Simon Freeman details the form this corruption takes — from the remote poppy fields near the Afghan border to Pakistan's major cities.

HUMAYUN KHAN, 19, is studying for his A-levels. But he need not worry about his results or finding a job. He has an assured future — in the family heroin business.

We met at his stall in Bara bazaar, an hour's drive from Peshawar in northern Pakistan and within walking distance of the Afghan border. Bara is a smugglers' market in the tribal lands. Populated by violent and feuding Pathans, the area is effectively autonomous and has changed little over the centuries, apart from the efficiency and range of the guns that men and boys sling over their shoulders.

Pakistan police or troops are rarely seen. Foreigners are banned. Signs at the border with the "settled" lands of Pakistan proclaim in English, French and German: "Foreigners are not allowed to go beyond this point. The government of Pakistan will not be responsible for any loss to their life or property."

At Bara a few Pakistanis had come from Peshawar, risking robbery or kidnap, to barter for duty-free televisions, radios, hi-fi, washing machines — goods the bazaar regularly handles. But many stalls specialise in weapons: Soviet, Chinese, British, American; machine guns, rifles, rockets, huge shells. Many more stalls, like Humayun's, deal in drugs, especially heroin.

We squatted on the floor of Humayun's stall while his elder brother, Gulla, fetched tea. "Our heroin is the best in the market," said Humayun. "We can supply anywhere in Pakistan. No problem. No risk. We have made a lot out of heroin. We can make you rich too."

He pointed to the Syringe on the counter and offered me — a prospective buyer — a sample. The day before, a British customer interested in a bulk order had tested the goods. The heroin had been so pure, so strong, smiled Humayun, that the man fainted. "We took him to our residence. The next morning he was well," he said, relishing his after-sales service.

"I have a customer who started a few years ago with one scooter. Now he has six large houses," he said. Deliveries could be arranged to Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi. There would be a small surcharge to cover bribes involved in shipment but there was no need to worry about the law enforcement agencies. "There are 100 shops selling drugs," he said. "Every shop pays 30,000 rupees (about £2,000) a month to the police and customs. Even the tribal chiefs own shops. But they pretend not to. Everyone is making money."

He talked in Urdu through my interpreter, Anwar Iqbal, an enterprising 28-year-old journalist who works for the English-language newspaper, the Muslim, in the capital, Islamabad. The brothers believed I was another greedy foreigner eager to make a for-

tune through heroin. "We can give you kilos now," said Humayun. "Give us one week and we can get you a lorry load."

"I have permanent customers all over Europe, in Nigeria and Argentina. Yesterday I sold a Nigerian 165,000 rupees (about £11,000) worth of heroin. He has been a regular for eight months. But you should not come here again. We will use a contact in Peshawar," he said. "And don't worry about police informers there. We will bribe them."

He even gave me what he said was his business card. Neatly printed on red paper, it said: "Qazi Travel Agency, New Market, Near Bus Stand, Shah Market. Shop no 23/24. Tel: 79235."

The brothers offered to show me the poppy fields, the source for the opium that provides the base for heroin. They also suggested a tour of their "laboratories", a grandiose term for the funnels and chemicals needed to convert opium into heroin.

Less openly, Humayun tried to make a side deal with Iqbal at my expense. Iqbal could have — for starters — a kilogramme of pure heroin, suitable for intravenous use in the West, for £4,500. But Iqbal should charge me double so they could split the extra money. Even so, the deal would not have been a bad one. One kilo of 65 per cent pure heroin fetches between £150,000 and £180,000 in Britain.

With the light fading, the brothers said they would drive us back to Peshawar because the police sometimes beat up foreigners who had wandered into tribal lands.

We were stopped at a customs checkpoint as we reached "settled" territory. An officer asked why a "white" was in the car. "He is my friend," said Humayun and we drove through. At the next checkpoint there was a brief, shouted exchange of jokes about Humayun having "goods" in the boot. But we were not searched.

The officers' indifference was surpassed only by an incident the next day when we were on the road to Landi Kotal, another smugglers' market, at the foot of the Khyber Pass. One of the five customs men at the Islamabad College post, Abdul Hafiz Niazi, was not only puffing contentedly on a hash joint, he offered to share it with me.

Long Service

Humayun Khan's family has been in the drug business for 20 years. The poppy has been grown in their area, and Afghanistan and Iran for as long as anyone can remember. Until 1979 opium was sold legally in 333 government-licensed shops in Pakistan. There were more than 300,000 addicts but nobody much cared; they tended to be poor, and illiterate. Profits for families like the Khans, dealing in opium and hash, were modest.

Then in 1980 Pakistan was sud-



Tribal lands: bribes for all

denly thrust to centre stage in the international drugs drama. There was a poor poppy crop in southeast Asia, the "Golden Triangle", but a bumper one in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, the "Golden Crescent". An estimated 800 tons of opium was produced, enough to make 80 tons of heroin. The dealers in Iran and Afghanistan both had problems in distributing their bounty. In Iran the ayatollahs' revolution in 1979 had brought a ruthless crackdown on drug traffickers. Afghanistan was "invaded by Russia" the same year. That left Pakistan. Legend has it that a German chemist handed the Pakistanis the not-very-complicated secret of processing opium into heroin. Pakistan was set to become the world's major producer of the world's most destructive drug. And, as Humayun put it, since then it has just been a question of piling up the money.

Under pressure from Western narcotics agencies, the Pakistan government has by now outlawed opium and stiffened penalties for drug dealing. But the three great smugglers' bazaars in the tribal lands — Bara, Landi Kotal and Darra — are symbols of the government's enduring impotence. Sometimes it stages bloody, sometimes it stages raids on the three markets.

But the raids do little to halt the flow of heroin. They merely encourage dealers to shift their stalls to quieter markets. Moreover, the bazaars represent only the most visible tip of the heroin trade. The men who finance the deals, who shrug off the arrest of their couriers in London, Frankfurt or New York as part of the business, who have amassed "millions", perhaps "billions", operate from luxury homes in Peshawar, Lahore or Karachi. One drug dealer, introduced to me by a Western narcotics agent who uses the man as an informer, said: "The big guys are never caught. They have the money to buy protection. And they are sitting right pretty at home. I have seen men who live in the tribal areas. Big men. They are sitting in rooms filled with money. As God is my witness. They sit there staring at the money. They don't believe in banks. Silly bastards."

The profile of a typical, established smuggler would run like this. He would probably live in Lahore or Karachi or Peshawar, and would receive his supplies by road from the "laboratories". He would be a man who believes that smuggling, whether in radios,



Customs officer Niazi puffs on a 'joint', but other officers take bribes to look the other way

hi-fi, hash or heroin, is a perfectly reasonable way to earn a living. He may have business partners to spread the losses if his couriers are arrested. He lives well and entertains lavishly. His guest list always includes senior law and army officers and civil servants; many would receive regular bribes from him. Everyone in his city knows how he makes his living. Many quite admire him.

Rarely arrested

If he is arrested — a rare occurrence — he usually bribes his way to freedom before or after trial. If, by some accident, he is sentenced, he serves only two years in jail, the minimum term for trafficking in amounts of more than 10 grammes.

Smugglers like this thrive because of corruption — of police, customs, airport security, bureaucrats — and because of the incompetence and indifference of government. "Everyone, from the top to the bottom, is corrupt. Everyone is badly paid. How else do people survive?" said an intelligence officer in Peshawar. He dismissed the official statistics purporting to show how little heroin is now produced and how much seized. "The figures are all cooked up. They are not taken seriously here. They are meant to satisfy the West."

A few days later in Karachi, this theme was echoed by a senior police officer. The official is a long-standing contact of a local journalist, Kamran Khan. 26, who has written a series of brave exposes on corruption within the city's law enforcement agencies. The officer I spoke to was, said Khan, "pretty corrupt" himself but, by local standards, was fairly effective. "I have seen him take a bribe of 20,000 rupees (about £1,300)," Khan said. "But he is not the worst. I know officers who own mills and factories."

The officer earns less than £150 a month. Yet he lives in a large

house in one of the most fashionable parts of Karachi. He runs several handsome cars. As we talked in his living room he offered me a large imported cigar worth a sizeable chunk of his salary. He owns a colour television and video.

He found many of my questions amusingly naive and slapped his knee with enjoyment. Why did the police not close Sohrah Goth market, on the outskirts of the city, I asked him? I had been offered as much heroin as I wanted there, while a traffic policeman stood within yards of the store. A police checkpoint a few hundred yards away was just as busy ignoring the obvious drug dealing going on in the market.

The officer laughed. "Look, the government is making money. Take the coast guards. They make millions out of smuggling. Not just heroin. Everything. Of course the police are paid not to raid Sohrah Goth."

A few days earlier, a truck carrying 120 kilograms of heroin had been seized as it entered Karachi from Peshawar. Surely this proved that the authorities were not entirely corrupt? "Officially all heroin taken by us is destroyed," he said. "But often it is resold." A few days later there were reports that a police inspector had resold 20 kilograms of seized heroin. His punishment was a transfer to another station.

Several officers I spoke to named the same major heroin dealers. Indeed, their names have appeared in the local press as the new smuggling aristocracy. They agreed that Anwar Khattak had made millions. He was sentenced by a court in absentia last September to three years in jail. But the officers say he lives, untroubled by the police, in an exclusive district of Karachi called Defence 5. Four others sentenced with Khattak — his brother, Ajmal, Haji Mittho, Dawood Jat and Iqbal Shah — are also believed to be free in Karachi. The two officers also spoke of Ashraf

Rana, who they believe lives in Karachi after jumping bail on a drugs charge in Britain, and Mushtaq Malik, the so-called Black Prince. He was arrested last month on heroin smuggling charges after he had foolishly insulted an army officer at a party.

Malik was charged with Feroz Gito, who reportedly owns a car showroom in Karachi, and Nisar Ahmad who, like Rana, jumped bail, in Britain.

Apart from the corruption, there was initially another reason for Pakistan's lack of concern about heroin. It was seen as a Western problem — the consequence, the government privately argued, of atheistic decadence.

Only now is the Pakistan government realising that the drug is producing a potential social and political timebomb at home. In 1980 there were hardly any heroin addicts in Pakistan. Now, it is estimated, there are 200,000 to 500,000 at least. Unlike the old opium down-and-outs, the heroin addicts are often the sons and daughters of the educated, wealthy classes.

Worse, more and more addicts are emerging among the agencies that are supposed to check the trafficking — police, customs, airport security.

Dr. Qazi Rishad Ahmad, senior registrar in psychiatry at Karachi Civil Hospital, told me that the government was "very concerned" about this addiction. Dr. Ahmad, 33, knew he was risking his job by talking to a foreign journalist but said it was his duty. The government was sending dubious officers for screening. "In one batch of airport security force men, 30 out of 40 were heroin addicts."

Poppy production is certainly down in areas controlled by the government. But the drug-fighters' best hope is that Pakistan's domestic heroin problem will breed enough crime to jerk the government into action. On the evidence so far it seems a forlorn hope — The Sunday Times.

Randa Habib's Corner

Lighting a soft fifth candle

THIS CORNER has survived four years and this called for a celebration. In fact this is what I have done with my friends and colleagues in the Jordan Times.

When on the 8th of April 1981, the first Randa Habib corner appeared, I did not expect it to last this long. This corner has sometimes provoked sharp criticism from people who did not share my opinion and praise from others who encouraged me to go ahead.

A prominent French writer once said: "I write to make friends..."

For four years, I can count many readers who have become my friends, and our friendship is solid because it is based on common interest and the will to denounce the wrong and support the right.

One reader whom I met for the first time told me, "Do you know I admire you a lot and that many people admire you too... I think it is very important for us that you know that." And to tell you something, I do.

Another spoke of me at a meeting of having "the courage of saying loudly what people think of quietly."

Others complained of not being able to get in touch with me as my office is not at the Jordan Times and that only recently they got my telephone number.

On the other hand, some people brought my attention to the fact that some readers consider me rather cynical. Well, I accept the criticism the same way I accept praise.

To you all who delighted me with support and constructive criticism, allow me extend thanks because it is only for your encouragement that this corner starts today ardently its fifth year of existence.

WATER AUTHORITY

Madaba and Ma'an Water and Sewerage Project

MN-1 /85/92 - MD-1 /85/67
MD-2 /85/93 - MD-3/ 85/94

The Water Authority invites experienced firms of contractors from member states of the European Communities, Switzerland, Austria, Japan or the United States of America and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who have been qualified as general and first class water and sewerage and general class buildings and roads contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the Madaba and Ma'an Water and Sewerage Project. Foreign bidders are strongly encouraged to associate with such local contractors, or with local contractors who have been qualified as first class buildings and roads contractors. All commodities imported for this project shall also have their source and origin in the eligible countries shown above.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the European Investment Bank towards the cost of the Madaba and Ma'an Water Supply and Sewerage Project. The two cities contracts are as follows:

- 1. Madaba Contract MD-1:**
The construction of a 2000-cubic metre per day average capacity wastewater treatment plant and all other necessary works as detailed in drawings and specifications.
- 2. Madaba Contract MD-2:**
Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems. The construction of about 24 km. of concrete sewers ranging in size from 150 to 400 mm., about 29 km. of ductile iron water mains ranging in size from 80 to 450 mm., about 8 km. of water services, one 400-cu.m. elevated reservoir, one 6000-cu.m. ground reservoir, one pressure reducing structure and one package pump station.
- 3. Madaba Contract MD-3:**
Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems. The construction of about 35 km. of concrete sewers ranging in sizes from 150 to 500 mm., about 27 km. of ductile iron water mains ranging in sizes from 80 to 450 mm., about 8 km. of water services, and one pressure reducing structure.
- 4. Ma'an Contract MN-1:**
The construction of a 1200-cubic metre per day average capacity wastewater treatment plant and all other necessary works as detailed in drawings and specifications.

On or before April 28, 1985 each contractor shall submit in person or by mail the information about the firm or joint venture requested in the contract documents. The information will be evaluated and the contractor will be informed by May 4, 1985. A prebid conference will be held on May 5, 1985 at 0900 hours, Jordan local time, at the office of the Water Authority in Amman.

Site visits will be arranged on the following day(s). The bids are due not later than 1200 noon, Jordan local time, on May 28, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority in Amman.

Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the Water Authority, Nabulus Street, Jebel Hussein, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 666111, telex 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the contract documents is JD 100 or US dollars 250 per set for the initial copy of each of the four contracts and JD 50 or US dollar 125 for each additional copy.

Copies of the contract documents will be sent by air courier to interested parties in eligible countries by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank cheque plus JD 40 (US \$100) for air courier costs for each contract.

Eng. M.S. Keilani
President
Water Authority

Raising of women's status is slow and evolutionary

By Peter Humphrey
Reuter

VIENNA — Access of women to political and professional life is still severely limited and men's monopoly of top jobs remains basically intact despite a 10-year campaign to raise the status of women, a United Nations survey shows.

But Assistant Secretary-General Leticia Shahani, in charge of the U.N. Decade of Women, told Reuters the campaign had helped stimulate a long, slow, quiet revolution.

A world plan of action for women up to the year 2000, to be endorsed at a world conference to review the decade in Nairobi this July, was aired in East-West bickering at a meeting here last month of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the preparatory body for the Nairobi Conference.

But Ms. Shahani used neutral words to describe the row that focussed on Moscow blaming women's woes on "imperialism". "Perhaps it reflects the complexity of the issue," she said in an interview, citing different cultural attitudes to women.

The replies of 123 governments to a U.N. questionnaire on women showed that the domination of top jobs by men was due to stereotyping. But Mr. Shahani said the decade had seen some women move into higher posts and had raised governments' awareness of women's problems.

"I think the women's issue is one of the most profound, quiet revolutions of our time," she said.

"But it's a slow revolution. You can't do it overnight."

The women's revolution would also change the role of men at home and in society and link arms with other issues — rural development, population, energy, ageing and the disabled.

"The women's issue has been placed in a far greater context than mere feminism," she said. The number of government replies to the U.N. questionnaire was itself a measure of this success, providing sweeping global data on women's position in society.

The lifespan of women rose during the decade. Literacy was still a problem, but some 100 governments had set up units and departments dealing with women's affairs, compared with half this number before the decade was launched in 1975, she said.

Ms. Shahani believes the decade is a major achievement of the U.N. itself and sees her own position as a reflection of what the campaign stands for. Born 56 years ago in Lingayen, the Philippines, she has a distinguished diplomatic career behind her as ambassador to Hungary, Romania and East Germany.

Only three women rank as assistant secretary general in the U.N. — the other 47 holders of the title are men.

Ms. Shahani is secretary general to the Nairobi Conference, the Third World women's conference since the decade was launched in Mexico. A midway conference was held in Copenhagen in 1980.

They were difficult gatherings, reflecting the conflicting views of East, West and "Third World" on women's problems. The Vienna meeting boded ill for a united world plan of action.

Despair often reigned in the forum. President Reagan's daughter Maureen, head of the U.S. delegation to Nairobi, said the East bloc deliberately thwarted any initiatives she made.

But the decade has institutionalised women's issues as a concern of governments and legislatures, and boosted research to assess women's problems. Most states now enshrine male and female equality in law, Ms. Shahani said.

Traditions and lack of resources hindered implementation, however. The campaign must now spur fulfilment of government pledges and integration of women into development and political processes, she said.

"The decade has helped but it's there to stimulate action. It is governments themselves who must undertake the actual task of improving women's status. The future must ensure increased participation of women, increased empowerment of women."

Questionnaire replies showed that economic recession had severely limited resources allocated to solving women's problems, most notably in the "Third

world".

Rural women struggled under traditional domestic expectations and their role as food producers in lean times. The male-female literacy gap narrowed in primary school generations but still gaped wide among older age groups.

Women did not benefit from a technology revolution, but in many nations became relegated to menial jobs.

In Vienna such concerns were voiced by "Third World" states, whose proposals for a world action plan stressed women's role in development and found understanding from both West and East.

FOR RENT FURNISHED APARTMENT

Fully-furnished new ground-floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 1½ bathrooms and veranda, central heating.

Location: Tia' Al Ali
Tel. 845887, after 3 p.m.

MALE OR FEMALE SECRETARY WANTED

Said Mathas and Sons Co. is seeking a male or female secretary with a minimum of three-year experience. Following skills required:

1. Arabic and English typing and operation of telex.
2. Good command of spoken and written English.
3. Filing.

Please call in person at the company's offices: Mahatta Street — near the Jordan Tobacco Company, tel. 651958.

WATER AUTHORITY WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER PROJECTS

Contract KA1/ 48/85
Contract KA2/ 48/85
Contract KA3/50/85

The Water Authority announces that the dates for the tendering process for above contracts have been amended as follows:

- (a) Submittal of prequalification questionnaire will be on April 21, 1985 instead of on April 7.
- (b) Evaluation of this information and the prime contractor will be informed not later than May 1 whether or not to submit a bid.
- (c) Prebid conference will be on May 4.
- (d) Bids due date will be on May 18, 1985 instead of on May 4.

Eng. Mohammed S. Keilani
President
Water Authority

Low-ranked Mayotte, Edberg score wins in WCT finals

DALLAS (R) — Tim Mayotte and Stefan Edberg, the lowest-ranked players in the field, powered into the quarter-finals of the \$500,000 World Championship Tennis (WCT) finals tournament Wednesday.

Mayotte, seeded 11th, used an effective serve-and-volley game to beat fifth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 6-2. Mayotte will now meet fourth seed Mats Wilander of Sweden.

Ferocious serving by Edberg, the number 12 seed, eliminated fellow-Swede Anders Jarryd, ranked six, 1-6, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 to earn a quarter-final match with third-ranked Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

Edberg, winner of the exhibition tournament at last year's Olympic Games, started hes-

itantly on the Reunion Arena's fast surface and was outplayed in the opening set.

The 19-year-old Swede got his serve booming in the second and third sets, and only a series of sloppy drop shots and volleys prevented him clinching the match in the fourth.

Both players made a series of mistakes in the final set before Edberg earned victory with a crucial breakthrough in the fourth game.

Jarryd, bothered by an upset stomach that forced him to leave

the court for a while, survived one match point at 2-5 but could not stave off defeat in the next game.

"When I got the break, he fell to pieces," Edberg said of the final set.

"I haven't played for a couple of weeks. It was hard in the beginning... and then I got into it, and that was it."

Earlier Mayotte overwhelmed left-handed Gomez by serving powerfully and timing his rushes to the net to perfection.

The first set was evenly matched before the 24-year-old Mayotte clinched the tie-break 7-4.

But once the American had broken serve at the beginning of the second set it was all over for a dispirited Gomez who seemed to have lost his customary sharpness.



HEADING FOR CUP MATCH: The national Jordanian soccer team left Amman Wednesday evening heading for Doha for their World Cup qualifying clash against Qatar on Friday. Jordan beat Qatar 1-0 in the home leg three weeks ago. Qatar defeated Iraq 3-0 last week, while Iraq narrowly beat Jordan 3-2 two weeks ago in Amman.

The three sides are equal with two points but Qatar leads the group on goal difference. Jordan's team has just returned from a week-long training trip to Malta. They were beaten 3-1 by Malta's national side, while they drew 2-2 with first division leaders Valetta.

Hagler predicts he'll knock out Hearns

LAS VEGAS (R) — Undisputed world middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler Wednesday said that he would knock out Thomas Hearns in their 12-round title bout Monday, but backed away from an earlier prediction of the round.

"I'll knock him out, but I'm not going to predict the round," Hagler told a news conference. "But it can end early."

Hagler on his arrival here late Monday night had said, "I'm going to knock him out in the third."

Hearns, the current World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight and former World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight champion, had earlier predicted he would knock Hagler out in the third.

Hagler had his first Las Vegas sparring session Tuesday. The workout was closed to the public and news media.

Hagler had been training in Palm Springs, California, for more than a month. "I went there to get used to the climate," he said.

Hearns arrived here almost two weeks ago after training in Miami,

where the climate is also warm but more humid than it is in Las Vegas.

Hagler, who won the middleweight title in 1980 from Briton Alan Minter, has a record of 60-2 with 50 knockouts.

Hearns is 40-1 with 34 knockouts.

Ali predicts

Mohammad Ali Tuesday predicted Hearns would knock out Hagler in their fight and compared the bout to his classic confrontations with Joe Frazier.

"I think Hearns will knock him out in the ninth," Ali told a press conference.

"Their fight is just like when I fought Frazier," he said. "It's speed versus power with a short reach."

Hearns is taller than Hagler, the current undisputed world middleweight champion, and is considered by experts to have more hand and foot speed.

The same held true for Ali when he fought Frazier in the early and mid 1970s. Ali won two of their three fights.

World record holder Jones leads entry list for London Marathon

LONDON (AP) — Steve Jones and Ingrid Kristiansen head an impressive list of entries for this year's London Marathon on April 21, organisers announced Wednesday.

Welshman Jones, the world record holder, and Norway's Kristiansen, the second fastest woman, are favourites to win their respective races and could earn as much as \$75,000 each.

The winner of the race, the fifth to be held through the streets of London, will collect \$15,000 and a further bonus of \$50,000 for setting a new world record.

A further \$10,000 will be awarded to anyone who breaks the London course record.

The same prize money and conditions apply to the first three runners in both the men's and women's races, with \$12,000 going to the runners-up and \$9,000 for third place.

Thereafter, cash prizes will be awarded down to 10th place for men and eighth place for women.

Jones, who set a world best of two hours, eight minutes and five seconds at the Chicago marathon last October, is out to improve on that time but will have outstanding

opposition.

Charlie Spedding, last year's London Marathon winner and bronze medalist at the Los Angeles Olympics, will present the biggest threat, while Mike Drutton and Hugh Jones, two other previous winners, are also in the race.

Heading the hundreds of overseas runners from 39 countries will be West Germany's Christoph Herle, who placed seventh at last month's World Cross Country Championships in Lisbon, and Orvind Dah of Norway, second in the 1982 London Marathon and fourth last year.

Kristiansen, 29, set the world's second fastest time when she won last year's women's race here and finished fourth in Los Angeles. Organisers said she would be attempting to break Joan Benoit's world record of 2:22:43 this time.

With her great Norwegian rival, Grete Waitz, still recovering from knee trouble, Kristiansen's closest rivals are expected to be New Zealand's Mary O'Connor and Katie Schilly, who heads the 373-strong American entry.

Brasher said 58,000 applications to run in this year's race had to be turned down, leaving a

record 22,100 entries.

He said the field was expected to be reduced to 18,000 by race day because of withdrawals.

For the first time, the leading women in the race will start at the same point and time as the men.

"Last year, Ingrid (Kristiansen) found it very off-putting and demoralising when Charlie Spedding went past her just as she thought she was doing well," said race director Brasher.

United loses chance to catch up

LONDON (R) — Manchester United lost a chance to make up ground on English first division soccer leaders Everton when they were beaten 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday Tuesday night.

Second placed United remain four points behind Everton, who now have three games in hand.

Although United carried the fight to Wednesday as much as possible they failed to peg back the 17th minute decider, scored by Lee Chapman from a cross by Brian Marwood.

United have only seven games left and the title begins to look more than ever to be heading Everton's way.

Meanwhile in the third division a goalless draw between Millwall and Reading was marked by nine players being booked — seven of them from Reading.

But there were no reports of any trouble from supporters of Millwall which earlier in the day had been fined more than \$9,000 after the violent scenes at last month's Football Association Cup tie at Luton.

Graf, Sabatini reach 3rd round in Hilton Head women's tennis

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (R) — Teenagers Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and Steffi Graf of West Germany reached the third round of the \$200,000 Hilton Head women's tennis tournament with straight-set victories Tuesday.

The unseeded Sabatini, who turns 15 in one week, upset 14th-seeded Kathleen Horvath of the U.S. 6-4, 6-3 in an exciting 77-minute match.

Sabatini next faces fifth seed Zina Garrison, who struggled to beat fellow American Terry Phelps 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (7-4), 6-1.

The 11th-seeded Graf, who will be 16 in June, beat Annabel Croft of Britain 6-1, 6-4 in 46 minutes.

Graf will next face seventh-seeded Hungarian Andrea Temesvari. Temesvari won her first 11 games against American Vicki Nelson and took a 6-0, 6-1 victory in 55 minutes.

Top seed and seven-time champion Chris Evert Lloyd begins defence of her title on Wednesday against fellow American Elise Burgin.

Second-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria will face Iva Budarova of Czechoslovakia in another second-round match.

Katerina Maleeva, at 15 years younger than her sister Manuela, beat Raffaella Reggi of Italy 6-2, 6-3 in a first-round match.

Sabatini avenged a 6-2, 6-0 loss to Horvath two weeks ago and

took a 2-1 career edge against the American in a hard-hitting battle fought mainly from the baselines.

Sabatini effectively mixed a heavy topspin forehand with a low, slicing backhand that barely came up off the clay court.

"She's a strong girl," said the 19-year-old Horvath, who is ranked 26th, seven places above Sabatini. "She played really well and it was not quite my day."

Argentine soccer could be suspended as result of violence

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The final stage of the Argentine national soccer championship could be suspended as a result of recent violence which in one case led to the death of a 14-year-old boy, a government spokesman said.

"The public needs time to reflect," interior undersecretary Raul Galvan said Tuesday night. He said a match between Velez Sarsfield and River Plate had been suspended indefinitely.

Top government police, Argentine Soccer Association (AFA) and Buenos Aires city government officials Tuesday planned a meeting to decide what steps should be taken against soccer violence.

A national senator said he would propose a resolution calling for the suspension of the national soccer tournament to give a com-

mission time to study ways of ending soccer violence.

A 14-year-old boy, who was watching his first professional soccer match, died on Sunday after being hit by a bullet during violence that led to the arrest of 508 people and left at least 20 injured, police said.

LOST PASSPORT

Lost Bangladesh passport No. C439360. If found please call

S.M. Zaman over Tel: 818777.

FOR SALE

1980 Mercedes 230; automatic gear, radio, sun-roof, excellent condition.

Duty not paid. Call 669374 after 18:00 hrs.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Odeh Naber & Sons Transport Company has vacancies for the following positions

- 1- Two male secretaries with good command of English language (written & spoken) typing, telex and experience in filing.
- 2- One male typist with at least 3 years experience.

Applications in own handwriting to be mailed to:

Odeh Naber & Sons Transport Co.
P.O. Box 866 Amman - Jordan

English and French Speaking Jordanian

Female Seeks a part-time Secretarial Job

Please Call Ruba 621321 Afternoon

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone.

Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.

Phone: 673768, 672842 after 2 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FOLLOW-UP VACANCY AT THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE OF SPAIN IN BAGHDAD

- Conditions:
- Fluent Spanish
- Other languages: English or/and Arabic
- Max. age: 35

Interested send C.V. to: Commercial Office of Spain

Dist. 923 - St. 11 - No. 26A - Jadiriya - Baghdad
Phone: 7762396 Telex: 212503 OFCOMES IK

مواصفة وزارة العمل رقم ٨٠ / تاريخ ١٩٨٥/٤/٤

Care Bears and Strawberry Shortcake, are two of the characters you meet when you visit us

AMMAN BOOKSHOP

A BIT MORE THAN A BOOKSHOP

J. Insurance Building, 3rd Circle, Jabal Amman.

To advertise in this section



Phone 666320

To advertise in this section



Phone 666320

To advertise in this section



Phone 666320

RESTAURANT CHINA

Airconditioned
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyyah Girls School

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - Midnight
Tel. 638968

CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO

3rd Circle, Jabal Amman
Opposite Akilah Hospital.

PEKING DUCK & FLAMING POT FONDUE ARE OUR SPECIALITIES

VISIT SOON!

Open daily 12:00-3:30 PM
6:00 PM to Midnight

Tel. 641093

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for lunch FRIDAY
Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialities
Open daily 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - Midnight

CHINA RESTAURANT

ABOVE HOMAN SUPERMARKET

The first & best Chinese restaurant in Aqaba

Take away service available

Open daily 11:30-3:30 - and 6:30-11:00

AQABA, Tel: (0331) 4415

CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090 Tel: 2226 RESMCO JO
Cable: New Jordan
P.O. Box 92887
AMMAN JORDAN



Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 44092-44280 677420

TANK

(Colour)

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

YOR, THE VIOLENT FIGHTER

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

ONCE UPON A TIME IN AMERICA

(Colour)

3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

A LITTLE SEX

(Colour)

4 6:30 8:30 10:30
Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- EXECUTION OF A DEAD MAN

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

MUJHE INSAAF CHAHIYE

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5-8

Philadelphia

WHERE THE BOYS ARE

(Colour)

Shows at 3:30, 6:30, 10:15

TEL. 34144-34149

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.2095/2105	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3733/45	Canadian dollars
	3.1410/25	West German marks
	3.5490/5520	Dutch guilders
	2.6600/20	Swiss francs
	63.20/25	Belgian francs
	9.5825/5925	French francs
	2000/2003	Italian lire
	254.60/75	Japanese yen
	9.0900/50	Swedish crowns
	9.0475/0525	Norwegian crowns
	11.2425/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	323.90/323.90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed firm in technical reaction to Tuesday's losses but turnover remained light. Dealers said the one per cent rise in U.K. M3 money supply was in the middle of a wide range of forecasts while the £1.8 billion rise in bank lending was lower than expected. However, the figures had little initial effect on prices.

The FT 30 share index at 1400 GMT was up nine points at 964.9 while the more broadly based FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT was up 2.7 at 1,272.9. Equities gained up to 13p among the leaders while government bonds ended with gains of up to 3/4 point. Gold shares were mixed and north Americans firmed.

Pearl Assurance dropped 50p to 1,093 following lower than expected annual results, having opened at 1,153p. Other life insurers drifted from their opening highs in sympathy.

In mixed banks, Natwest eased 7p to 587 while Barclays rose 4p to 339 having touched 344 as some demand was noted in its recently issued mid-paid shares which ended 7p higher at 188. Smiths Industries firmed 15p to 206 following its half year results.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS., APRIL 11, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you able to make considerable headway towards gaining the formulas you desire to have a greater success at whatever your outside interests are.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact the most powerful person of your acquaintance and show your finest abilities. Tonight, steer clear of the public.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have fine ideas for becoming more successful, so put them in operation and use only the most orthodox systems.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you apply yourself seriously to regular work, you get better results now. Avoid business dealings in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be more businesslike and less emotional with your partners and get better results. Rest tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get well organized early so that you can produce a great deal later in the day, but take time for health treatments in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good day and evening for enjoying what it is you like most, but try not to spend too much money. Be thoughtful of loved ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Consider your aims carefully and do whatever will bring them into your life. Entertain at home this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to impress others with your organizational abilities, but steer clear of a pal who criticizes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy studying your newspaper and other periodicals so that you can enhance your property interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Work out a plan that can bring you what you most need and desire and add extra benefits as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop daydreaming and get right to work on practical affairs and gain greater success. Spend a romantic evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) See as many friends as you can and arrange social affairs for the near future. Make big headway in personal affairs.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you will be winding up conditions from the past or where very conservative and conventional activities are concerned. Don't hold on to past mistakes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle worldly affairs in the morning, then plan what should be done to modernize your operations. Follow orders of bigwigs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Put those new methods to work that are more practical and get your operations nicely modernized. A new contact has good ideas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early handle any collections and make payments that are pressing, then off to more interesting activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make arrangements with a partner that are ideal, then handle your end of the bargain.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can make big headway at work in the morning and later you can do much that will please your partners.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Before working on new methods of operating, make appointments for the evening's fun. Budget your money well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle home affairs that await your attention in the morning, then you can join with a good friend at what pleases you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Talks with allies can be handled satisfactorily in the morning. Then you can handle home affairs well, also.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan just how to best handle vital home and business affairs, and then carry through. Get expert advice on property matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can gain some cherished wish in the morning and later handle monetary affairs very wisely. Read pertinent brochures.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try a more practical approach if you want to gain that private aim. Be more direct and you get fine results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study how to be more consistently successful in private affairs before you confer with an advisor quietly.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very serious in childhood and will want to do everything in the standard and accepted way, so be sure to provide a fine education. Give good spiritual training that can be of great help here.

White House awaits specifics on Japanese trade measures

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — The Reagan administration is waiting for specific action by Japan to back up its outline programme for more open trade and end the threat of congressional protectionist measures.

White House spokesmen welcomed Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's announcement Tuesday of the proposals including a three-year programme of simplification of import rules, some tariff cuts by June and a call for Japanese to be more import-minded.

But they made clear they were waiting for concrete actions to ease the imbalance of trade between the two countries, which last year was \$37 billion in Japan's favour.

White House chief of staff Mr. Donald Regan said the announcement contained "few new or

immediate market-opening measures", but the administration understood the Japanese would work out specific actions.

Speaking at Santa Barbara, where President Reagan is on holiday, Mr. Regan called Mr. Nakasone's action courageous and said the prime minister was taking a big political risk.

"He is attacking the problem on two fronts — removing trade barriers, slowly to be sure — and also trying to change Japanese buying habits," Mr. Regan said.

But in Washington, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker warned: "We have to wait and see what the results are, we have to judge it on the basis of efforts to implement it, not just on the basis of what is said."

Mr. Regan predicted the Japanese measures would have little

effect on the 1985 trade deficit but could lessen the trade imbalance in 1986 and halve it within three or four years.

He added that President Reagan was pleasantly surprised by Mr. Nakasone's statement and recognised the political difficulties involved.

Mr. Reagan last month sent two envoys to Japan to impress on Mr. Nakasone the urgency of taking action to open Japanese markets in view of pressure from Congress for protectionism.

Vice President George Bush urged Congress not to start a trade war by approving protectionist legislation.

"It's time that we and our trading partners backed away from this protectionist cliff," he told a conference at the Import-Export Bank in Washington.

Kuwait will soon reveal plan to revive economy, premier says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in an interview published Tuesday that plans would be unveiled soon to revive the economy, but warned this would take time.

He told the Arabic daily newspaper Al Watan that, among other things, the economy was hamstrung by lower oil prices and factors outside the Gulf state's control such as the 4½ year war between neighbouring Iraq and nearby Iran.

"The Gulf war is having an impact on the economy, creating fears and hesitation. If the war stopped, the situation would be different," he was quoted as saying.

He said despite hopes that demand for oil would pick up in the coming months, he expected the state budget for the 1985/86 fiscal year starting next July would again run a deficit — for the fourth year in a row.

He gave no detailed forecast, but economists point out that substantial income earned from the Gulf state's foreign investments is excluded in framing the budget, and easily covers budgeted shortfalls.

The government projected a budget shortfall of 704 million dinars (\$2.3 billion) for 1984/85.

but lower spending than forecast should cut this considerably, economists say.

Moreover, investment income not taken into account in the budget is estimated at around 1.2 to 1.3 billion dinars (\$4 billion) for 1984/85.

The crown prince said Finance and Economy Minister Jassim Al Khorafi would present a comprehensive report to the national assembly in the coming weeks on ways to tackle the economy's ills.

He said the report would reiterate the state's full support for the country's banks, which financial analysts say are saddled with a number of problem loans linked to declines in prices of shares and real estate used as collateral.

The analysts add however, that the banks have built up vast hidden reserves to comfortable cover potential bad debts.

The crown prince said the report to parliament would also deal with ways to rationalise the status of Kuwaiti closed companies and Gulf firms hit by the stock market crash in 1982.

He expected the report to give an initial psychological boost to the economy which, despite its setbacks, performed better than

many others, he added.

Local newspapers Tuesday reported that the government had scrapped plans to create a major new bank from a merger of two existing institutions, but finance ministry and central bank officials could not be reached for comment.

Speculation has been rife that Bursan Bank and the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, each with a 60 to 70 per cent government shareholding, would be merged into a bank with the largest combined published capital in Kuwait.

Such a unit would have ranked third in size among Kuwaiti banks on the basis of declared assets, banking sources said.

Officials at each of the banks declined to comment on the report, carried by the Arabic daily Al Rai Al Am and reproduced in other dailies, which cited strong opposition to the plan on the grounds it could create unfair competition.

Talks on a merger were reported widely to have reached an advanced stage and there had been talk in the banking industry that it had already been decided to name the new institution Kuwait International Bank.

China to press ahead with reforms

PEKING (R) — China will press ahead with a major programme of wage and price reforms this year, despite problems three months ago which forced the government to clamp down on the money supply and slow the economy.

The decision, passed Wednesday by the parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), was contained in the final resolution of the NPC's closing session.

Legislators also approved the outline 1985 budget. Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang's annual government report and China's agreement with Britain on the handback of Hong Kong in 1997.

Mr. Zhao said in his report the government was taking measures to dampen down the economy after inflationary increases in wages and the money supply late last year and in early 1985.

The NPC resolution stressed that China should seek steady progress and guard against putting too much emphasis on economic growth for its own sake.

As China opened to the outside world, it should also stress discipline, morality, socialist ethics and love for the motherland, the resolution said.

It should oppose unhealthy practices, decadent capitalist and feudal ideas and go all out to build

a socialist civilisation, the document said.

Premier Zhao, Finance Minister Wang Bingqian and other senior government leaders warned colleagues of what they termed the "evil winds" sweeping China.

Mr. Wang lashed out at corruption, ostentation and extravagance by some state officials and firms, saying they were seriously undermining Communist Party policies.

The resolution said no one should be allowed to violate the law or discipline in the name of carrying out China's economic reforms.

Credit ratings of borrowing countries bounce back, international survey shows

NEW YORK (AP) — The creditworthiness of many nations of the world have staged a modest comeback in recent months, despite a continuing concern for the international debt crisis, according to a survey by a magazine specialising in global financing.

Cyprus stand out precisely on this, the magazine said.

The bankers summed up the Middle East credit situation in one sentence: "It is better, but not much," said the Institutional Investors.

The survey published by Institutional Investor in its March issue showed that the creditworthiness of 109 countries as perceived by leading international bankers reached its highest level since September 1983.

In its latest semi-annual survey, the bankers were asked to grade each of the countries on a scale of zero to 100, with zero representing the least creditworthy and 100 representing the most creditworthy with the least chance of default.

The sample for the study, which is updated every six months, ranges from 75 to 100 banks, each of which provides its own ratings, the magazine said.

In the latest rankings, only 37 countries — just one-third of those rated — made the 50 point cutoff, and only 32 did as well as the all-time high average of 55.4 points posted in September 1979.

Nevertheless, it added, if the survey is to have its own "psychological barrier", it is arguably the 40-point mark, which was topped in the latest ratings for the first five in 18 months.

The magazine, however, cautioned against anyone who "hails the end of the debt crisis". The global average ratings in its latest survey was only 40.2 points compared with the respectable 50-point range in the "forgotten days of the lending boom — before Poland, before Mexico and before Brazil."

But while the international debt crisis is still here, perceived creditworthiness — as one measure of both lender confidence and the state of the debt crisis — has most definitely staged a comeback, the magazine said.

It said the latest ratings were buoyed by significant improvement on the part of a number of individual countries notably Romania, Turkey, East Germany, Pakistan, Cyprus, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

But growing lender confidence is perhaps based more on broader regional assumptions and the perception that might have settled into a somewhat predictable pattern.

The Institutional Investor said that a number of regional themes emerged in its survey.

In Asia, for instance, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan were all boosted by the signature of an accord between Peking and London regarding the future of Hong Kong, and by China's new economic plans.

The Philippines and Malaysia lost ratings points because of their economic and political uncertainty. In some Latin American countries, especially Brazil and Mexico which have come to terms with their creditors through multi-year reschedulings, posted gains, while politically fragile cou-

tries like Peru and Chile, did not. The survey confirmed again that Western Europe has become a model of constancy and creditworthiness. An unwavering commitment to sound economic and fiscal management made international bankers rate the 18 countries of the region as one, it said.

Rankings within the region have been virtually frozen throughout the past 30 months, while the region's average rating has improved steadily since March 1984, it said.

Much the same can be said about improvement in East European creditworthiness, it added. In Africa, the effects of weak commodities prices, drought and political tension continue to depress ratings.

The magazine said that only Gabon and Mauritius appear to be making headway.

The fortunes of the Middle East continue to slip while price of oil and all signs are showing they will not improve until political problems are solved, it said. Egypt with its diversified economy and

Bankers praise Jordan

Regarding Jordan, a London economist estimates that aid from the Gulf states which once exceeded \$1 billion annually has dwindled by 20 to 25 per cent. Predictably, Jordan's ratings has slipped, if only by a little more than a point. But bankers say the financial community looks with favour on a government that shows "good management with few resources," the magazine said.

There is less praise for Israel's economic management, it said, and lenders downgraded Israel's rating by 1.1 points. Inflation, which has soared into triple digits, is "totally out of control" one banker said.

Here are the top 10 countries with credit ratings and cooperative figures from a year ago:

1. United States	95.6 points	down 0.4
2. Japan	95.1	unchanged
3. Switzerland	94.7	
4. West Germany	93.1	up 0.4
5. United Kingdom	88.8	up 0.2
6. Canada	87.1	up 0.3
7. Netherlands	86.3	up 0.7
8. Norway	86.2	up 0.4
9. Australia	83.9	up 0.3
10. Austria	82.5	up 1.2

The regional rankings with global ranks, credit ratings and comparative figures from a year ago:

1. Saudi Arabia	20	69.6	down 2.6
2. Kuwait	26	63.9	up 1.6
3. United Arab Emirates	28	60.8	down 0.2
4. Bahrain	30	56.5	down 0.5
5. Qatar	32	55.4	down 0.4
6. Oman	37	50.8	up 1.7
7. Jordan	52	36.1	up 0.3
8. Cyprus	54	35.53	up 2.6
9. Egypt	63	28.9	up 0.6
10. Israel	78	19.9	down 0.1
11. Iraq	79	08.9	up 0.5
12. Iran	81	18.5	up 1.1
13. Syria	93	12.4	down 1.8
14. Lebanon			

Regional average rating:	40.1	up 0.1
Global average rating:	40.2	up 0.5

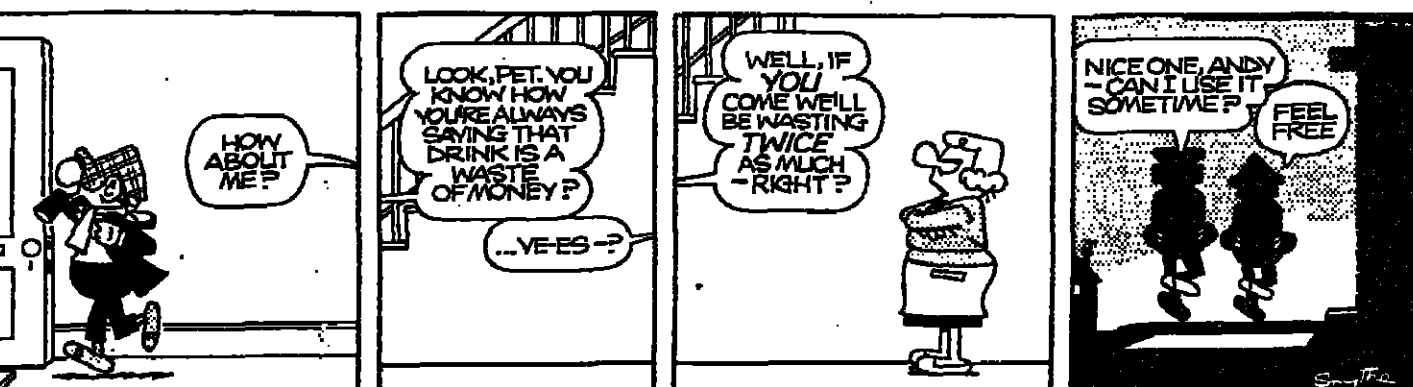
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

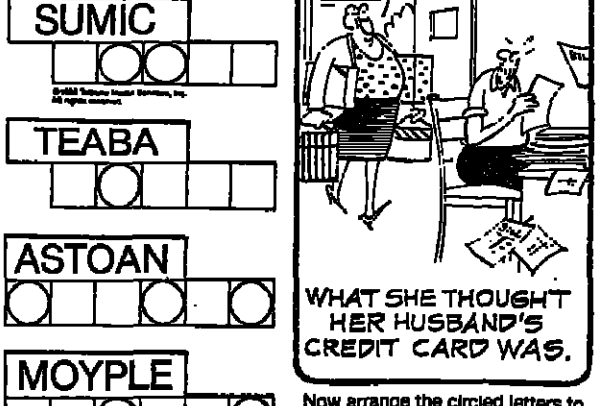


THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BROOK HAREM STODGY APIECE Answer: Full of beans!—A POD

House speaker to deliver summit letter to Kremlin

WASHINGTON (R) — House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill is carrying a letter from President Reagan for Mikhail Gorbachev reaffirming support for a summit, the White House said.

A White House spokesman, asked to comment on a report in the Washington Post that the letter "reaffirmed" Mr. Reagan's support for a summit, said "I can confirm that the letter is carrying such a letter."

Mr. O'Neill, a Democrat from Massachusetts, is leading a 13-member delegation of U.S. legislators on a six-day visit to the Soviet Union. The group met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

The White House spokesman declined to comment further on the report that appeared in Wednesday's Post.

The report from Moscow quoted an unidentified member of the U.S. delegation as saying that Mr. Reagan's letter was a follow-up to the president's summit invitation last month, delivered by Vice President George Bush at the funeral of Mr. Gorbachev's predecessor Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Reagan's letter was also a personal response to a message Mr. Reagan received two weeks

ago from Mr. Gorbachev in which he reportedly gave a positive response to an early superpower summit, although a date and place have yet to be set.

Mr. Reagan has said he hoped Mr. Gorbachev will travel to the United States for the summit meeting and administration officials have suggested it could be at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September. The Post said the letter to be delivered by Mr. O'Neill stresses "the importance the United States attaches to a resolution of the problems between the two countries."

Mr. Reagan is the first U.S. president in more than 50 years who has not met his Soviet counterpart. During his first four-year term, he rejected the idea of a summit with both Mr. Chernenko and his predecessor.

The choice of the 54-year-old Gorbachev at a time when U.S. Soviet arms talks have been resumed after a 15-month hiatus appears to have had an impact on

Mr. Reagan's previous opposition to a superpower meeting.

The Reagan administration Tuesday expressed disappointment with the early positions tabled by the Soviet Union in Geneva arms negotiations and said so far there had been no real advances.

Mr. Gorbachev publicly put forward one of Moscow's proposals on Sunday when he announced a temporary moratorium on Soviet deployment of SS-20 missiles targeted on Western Europe.

A senior administration official who asked not to be identified told Reuters that the Soviet offer indicated an unwillingness on Moscow's part to come up with something different.

"There is nothing new in Mr. Gorbachev's proposal, but it is interesting that his first proposal is an old one," he said.

The official noted that Mr. Gorbachev had been portrayed as a new man with new ideas, but said: "So far, he hasn't proven to be ... We haven't seen any new ideas."

The official said the administration was disappointed that "the first couple of things they table are previous positions re-done."

Thatcher gives new momentum to ties with Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave fresh momentum to relations with Indonesia Wednesday, ducking a row over East Timor.

Mrs. Thatcher, on the first visit to Indonesia by a British leader, held nearly two hours of talks with President Suharto.

British officials said Mrs. Thatcher, on the fourth stop of a six-nation Asian tour, was keen to give new impetus to bilateral relations and one of her press aides said the meeting went very well.

The one issue which could have flared up was East Timor, the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. Indonesia has been accused of human rights abuses there.

Indonesia's Secretary of State Sudharmono said Mrs. Thatcher wanted more data on the allegations. One British source said Mr. Suharto briefed her on East Timor and she asked some probing questions.

British officials said Mrs. Thatcher reaffirmed Britain's position that East Timor was a matter to be settled between Indonesia and Portugal at the United Nations.

Roman Catholic Church leaders have voiced concern and the London-based human rights group Amnesty International has accused Indonesian troops of brutality, torture and massacres. Indonesia has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Britain's relations with Indonesia have improved under Mr. Suharto, who became president in 1968. The British embassy in Jakarta was sacked by rioters in 1963 during the turbulent days of President Sukarno's confrontation with Malaysia.

Mrs. Thatcher said Tuesday night at a banquet that Mr. Suharto had shown strong leadership and compiled an impressive record of economic management.

26 Indians killed in Kashmir bus accident

NEW DELHI (R) — Twenty-six Indian tourists were killed and 61 injured when their bus plunged more than 60 metres off a road in a mountainous region of northern India, police said Wednesday.

P.L. Bhutto, deputy police chief in the Jammu and Kashmir state town of Jammu told Reuters by telephone that no foreigners were involved in the accident which occurred Tuesday night.

He said the bus, carrying tourists from Calcutta, skidded off the road linking Jammu with the state capital of Srinagar.

The Press Trust of India news agency reported that five of the injured were in critical condition at a hospital.

Senior officials and police were investigating the accident, the agency said. It did not give details.

Jammu and Kashmir is popular among Indians and foreign visitors for its mountain scenery and cool summer climate.

Meanwhile in Punjab at least two people were injured when

groups of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's supporters clashed Wednesday in Amritsar, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI said police used batons and a politician's bodyguard fired his submachine gun in the air to disperse members of Gandhi's Congress (I) Party who were fighting each other with bricks in the Sikh holy city.

The trouble erupted when party youth workers were barred from a reception for one of five Congress (I) secretaries-general, Rajinder Kumari Bajpai, it said.

Security has been stepped up in Amritsar with troops deployed on rooftops ahead of rallies planned for Saturday.

One rally marks the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of April 13, 1919, when British troops gunned down more than 300 people, including Sikhs and Hindus. In another, rival Sikh groups will celebrate the Baisakhi harvest festival in the Golden Temple complex.

Witness says Aquino was shot on aircraft steps

MANILA (R) — A private security guard, contradicting the military version of Benigno Aquino's murder, said Wednesday the Philippine opposition leader was shot as he descended an aircraft stairway at Manila Airport.

Ramon Layoso, 58, told a court trying Armed Forces Chief General Fabian Ver and 25 other men in connection with the murder that when he heard the first shot the former senator was on the last two steps.

Layoso, a retired soldier who gave similar evidence before an official inquiry last year, was the first witness to challenge in court the military's statements that Sen. Aquino was killed by an alleged Communist agent, Rolando Galman, on the tarmac.

"When I looked up after hearing the first shot, I saw them on the last two steps," he told the court, adding that he was near the staircase at the time.

But he said he did not see who killed Sen. Aquino or Galman, who was shot dead by soldiers moments after Sen. Aquino was murdered at the airport as he returned on Aug. 21, 1983, from

voluntary exile in the United States.

Layoso said that before Sen. Aquino was escorted from the plane by troops a soldier told him and security guard Olivia Reyes to stay away from the area.

"I went to Olivia Reyes to ask her why she was not at the plane's door where she was supposed to be but the soldier told us to go away," he said. At the time he was supervisor of private security guards deployed at the airport.

Reyes had testified before the inquiry that military men prevented her from going up the plane stairs. Reyes, another guard and an aircraft cargo handler are still being sought to give evidence.

The hearing was adjourned until April 17 after prosecutors said no other witnesses were immediately available. Several previous hearings have been adjourned because witnesses were not available or could not be found.

Gen. Ver, Kinsman and close confidant of President Ferdinand Marcos, and two other defendants are free on bail. All the accused have pleaded not guilty.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Mad kangaroo attacks 12-year-old girl

PERTH (R) — A huge red kangaroo grabbed a 12-year-old girl by the throat at an Easter holiday barbecue and had to be killed when it returned to the attack after being dragged off, the girl's mother said Wednesday. Kaide Schmidt was badly scratched and bitten on the head, ear and neck before the two-metre animal was killed with a fence post at the barbecue in Nungalloo, 300 kilometres north of Perth. "I'm sure many people think kangaroos are tame little things but this one just coming back at us," Joan Schmidt told reporters. Katie's father Wayne was bitten twice as he battled to free his daughter from the berserk animal. Three men dragged the kangaroo away by the tail but it came back again. A local farmer finally pulled up a fence post and bludgeoned it to death.

Tremor shakes Soviet Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — An earth tremor of moderate strength shook Soviet Azerbaijan, the second quake in the region in three days, the official Soviet News Agency TASS reported. TASS said there were no fatalities but several old buildings were damaged. The quake was centred on the village of Kubada in the central region of the Transcaucasian republic. A tremor of similar strength shook neighbouring Armenia on Sunday.

Drought kills 3m cattle in Kenya

NAIROBI (R) — Three million of Kenya's 10 million head of cattle died in last year's drought, Junior Agriculture Minister George Mwigiti was quoted as saying. The official Kenya News Agency said he was speaking at an agricultural school graduation ceremony. Kenya was among 23 African countries which were hit by drought last year and had to ask for international relief aid.

Nepal raises fees for mountain climbing

KATHMANDU (R) — Mountaineers will have to pay more to scale Nepal's Himalayan peaks later this year, a government newspaper reported Wednesday. The government is increasing fees for climbing during the autumn mountaineering season by 10 per cent, the newspaper Rising Nepal said. An expedition will have to pay the authorities \$3,000 to attempt Mount Everest, the world's highest peak — an increase of \$300. The newspaper, quoting a government notification, said the rise in fees was aimed at keeping pace with growing demand for access to the mountains.

Man ordered to pray at victim's grave

CLEARWATER, Florida (AP) — Joseph Link walked up to the grave of an 11-year-old hit-and-run victim and began his court-ordered visit with a silent prayer. He said the prayer on Easter evening was partly for the boy and partly for himself. He was the driver. "I pray that he is in heaven with God," he said. "I ask God to forgive me for what I've done. I'm sorry it ever happened. I think of it every day — the idea that I took a boy's life," said Link, 32. Link was ordered by a judge last month to visit the child's grave for six anniversaries as part of his sentence for vehicular homicide and leaving the scene of an accident. April 7 was the first anniversary of the death of Edward "Tony" Sylansky. On his way to a party last year, Link struck and killed the youngster, who was pushing his bicycle up a hill. Link said he thought he had only hit a road sign and didn't stop since he wasn't concerned about damage to his car. He turned himself in three days later after learning he was being sought. He's been sentenced to one year house arrest, followed by five years probation.

Neves grave after Sixth operation

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil's President-Elect Tancredino Neves, 75, was in grave condition Wednesday after undergoing surgery for the sixth time in less than a month, official sources said.

After an optimistic medical bulletin following the insertion of a breathing tube in his windpipe, Mr. Neves' heartbeat rate rose to 160 per minute and slowed to 130 only after doctors gave him a heart massage, the sources said.

Tests were being carried out to discover the causes of the crisis, in which Mr. Neves' temperature and blood pressure momentarily fell below normal.

An official bulletin early Wed-

nesday said both vital signs were back to normal and the heartbeat rate was down to 110.

Presidential Spokesman Antonio Brito said Tuesday night the latest operation had been a complete success. A medical bulletin said infection from earlier surgery was under control.

Mr. Neves had been breathing with the aid of oxygen fed through an uncomfortable mouth tube, which prevented him from talking and taking food orally, since his fifth operation last Thursday to drain abdominal infection.

His doctors said they opted for the tracheotomy when it became clear he would need breathing

help for some time.

Vice-President Jose Sarney became interim head of state when Mr. Neves was prevented from taking office as Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years.

All parties have voiced support for Mr. Sarney, who under the constitution would remain in office for the full six-year term if Mr. Neves were unable to become president.

But politicians have said this could create political difficulties within Mr. Neves' Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) which regards Mr. Sarney, a former leader of the military's Social Democrats, with suspicion.

Santiago double bomb blast injures two men

SANTIAGO (R) — Two men were injured by flying glass in a double bomb attack at a shopping plaza in the Chilean capital, eyewitnesses said.

A watchman at a bank told reporters two bombs exploded within three minutes at around 10.30 p.m. (0230 GMT).

The victims, who were wounded in the head and legs, were among a group of passers-by looking at windows shattered by the first blast when the second explosion occurred, he said.

Tuesday night's explosions occurred only a few hundred metres from the site of a car bomb attack on another shopping centre in the elegant Providencia district two weeks ago.

Leftist guerrillas opposed to Chile's military government claimed responsibility then but there was no immediate claim Tuesday night.

Three more bombs exploded in the coastal cities of Valparaiso and Vina Del Mar.

Eyewitnesses said a passer-by was injured by one of the blasts outside a post office in Vina.

The other two bombs were planted in the centre of Valparaiso, near the offices of the governor.

They caused damage but no casualties.

Masked gunmen Tuesday raided the offices of an opposition trade union and seized 5,000 pamphlets calling for protests against Chile's military government, the union's president said.

Sergio Troncoso, Communist head of the Confederation of Construction Workers' Unions, said the raiders had threatened to kill him and seven other officials in the offices at the time.

He said 10 men, armed with pistols and revolvers, had sprayed paint in the hair of the women, stolen their handbags and smashed spectacles. They had taken away the pamphlets, union records, two typewriters, a camera and a calculator.

Mr. Troncoso is a member of the executive committee of the Workers' National Command of opposition trade unions, which has called for demonstrations on Thursday.

The call follows the murder of three government opponents 10 days ago after a raid on the offices of one of them. Mr. Troncoso and his union were prominent at the funerals of the victims.

Bangladesh police arrest two opposition leaders

DHAKA (R) — Police said Wednesday they had arrested an opposition leader and the chief of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association in what appeared to be a fresh crackdown on opponents of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Tofael Ahmad, organising secretary of the Awami League Party, and Shamsul Huq Chowdhury were taken from their homes by police Tuesday night, family sources said.

The police declined to give reasons for the arrests, but they told Reuters they were looking for several other opposition leaders and activists.

The arrests were made hours

after the military government announced dates for controversial Upa-Zilla (rural council) elections on May 16 and 20.

The elections, originally scheduled for March last year, were put off after protests by the country's main opposition groups which said any polls under martial law would strengthen Gen. Ershad's powers.

Gen. Ershad told a rally outside Dhaka Tuesday that he was determined to hold elections for the 460 Upa-Zillas and promised strict security measures to prevent interference in the voting.

He said presidential and parliamentary elections would be held after the rural polls but gave no dates.

Honduran, U.S. forces hold joint manoeuvres

LAS HORMIGAS, Honduras (R) — Honduran troops were facing a mock armoured invasion from Nicaragua Wednesday, staged by U.S. tanks taking part in joint manoeuvres.

The war games, five kilometres from the Nicaraguan border in the arid province of Choluteca, are the latest in a series of U.S.-Honduran exercises designed to keep pressure on Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinist government.

About 5,000 Americans and an equal number of Honduran troops are taking part in the five-day manoeuvres, called Big Pine Three, which include an attack by 17 American M-60 tanks on Honduran positions.

The Hondurans are expected to beat back the "Nicaraguans" and drive them to the border with their British Scorpion and Saladin armoured vehicles, a Honduran officer told reporters.

The site was chosen because it was the only one in Honduras suitable for tank manoeuvres and the most likely place for a Nicaraguan attack if they decided to invade, he said.

It is the first time U.S. tanks have been introduced to Central America, where three countries are locked in bitter guerrilla wars.

The United States maintains a strong military presence in Honduras, its staunch ally in the region, to deter what it regards as Managua's expansionist ambitions.

Nicaragua has more than 70 Soviet-made tanks and an army of 60,000 men, the largest of any country in Central America. It says a strong military force is necessary to fight U.S.-backed rebels operating from bases in Honduras and to prepare for the possibility of a U.S.-led invasion.

Managua says the nearly continuous war games staged in Honduras for the past three years are a front for U.S. preparations to invade Nicaragua.

Honduran officials say the latest manoeuvres are designed to expose Honduran forces to a tank battle and prepare them to "defend the sovereignty of Honduras."

"If you want peace you must prepare yourself for war," said Colonel Jose Santos Ortiz Pena, Honduran operations chief.

Meanwhile, deputy foreign ministers from the Contadora countries and Central America met in Panama Thursday to relaunch a peace initiative for Central America only a week after President Reagan made separate proposals for peace in Nicaragua.

The ministers are due to discuss ways to monitor military forces in the region, a proposal mooted by Contadora last year.

The two-day gathering will be the Contadora Group's first with Central American countries since a February meeting was cancelled due to a diplomatic row between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, now settled.

President Reagan's call last week for a cease-fire and talks between U.S.-backed rebels and Nicaragua's left-wing government is unlikely to have a major impact on Thursday's meeting but will become a factor later, Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera said Tuesday.

"It has no direct relationship with the issues on our agenda," he said after a two-day preliminary meeting in Caracas with colleagues from fellow Contadora members Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. "It will have its effect at a later stage."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

1984 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 5 2
♥ Q 4 2
♦ K Q 9 3
♣ J 3

EAST
♠ 10 7 6
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 10 7 5
♣ K Q 10 5

WEST
♠ Q 3
♥ A J 10 6 5
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A J 5 4
♥ K 3
♦ A 2
♣ A 8 2

DOUBLY SAFE

play — a low heart.

Declarer had to decide whether West was leading from the A-J-10 of hearts or whether his suit was headed by the jack. After much agonizing, he chose to play East for the ace and ducked in dummy in an effort to block the suit — down one.

We can't fault declarer for going wrong in hearts — we, too, have gone wrong on occasion. His mistake was in the way he managed the spade suit.

Had declarer needed four tricks from the suit, his line of play would have been above criticism; but three were sufficient for the contract. Declarer could afford to lose a spade trick to East, since then the queen of hearts would have been safe from attack. As long as East held one of the missing honors, that could be accomplished.

At trick two declarer should cash the ace of spades, then lead toward the king and simply cover any card West plays. Unless West has both missing spade honors, the contract is a certainty.

Incidentally, note that declarer has a problem in the heart suit only because the opponents were using standard leads. Had the defenders been playing that the lead of the jack denies a higher honor and that the 10 promises none or two higher, the position would have been crystal clear.

Against three no trump West led the jack of hearts. Declarer won in hand, crossed to the king of spades and finessed the jack. West won the queen and made a fine defensive

play — a low heart.

Declarer had to decide whether West was leading from the A-J-10 of hearts or whether his suit was headed by the jack. After much agonizing, he chose to play East for the ace and ducked in dummy in an effort to block the suit — down one.

We can't fault declarer for going wrong in hearts — we, too, have gone wrong on occasion. His mistake was in the way he managed the spade suit.

Had declarer needed four tricks from the suit, his line of play would have been above criticism; but three were sufficient for the contract. Declarer could afford to lose a spade trick to East, since then the queen of hearts would have been safe from attack. As long as East held one of the missing honors, that could be accomplished.

At trick two declarer should cash the ace of spades, then lead toward the king and simply cover any card West plays. Unless West has both missing spade honors, the contract is a certainty.

Incidentally, note that declarer has a problem in the heart suit only because the opponents were using standard leads. Had the defenders been playing that the lead of the jack denies a higher honor and that the 10 promises none or two higher, the position would have been crystal clear.

Against three no trump West led the jack of hearts. Declarer won in hand, crossed to the king of spades and finessed the jack. West won the queen and made a fine defensive

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Eitzen

ROGUE'S GALLERY

By Olive Dumm

ACROSS
1 Molestation
2 Plant fiber
3 Sea snail
13 Mockery
15 London district
16 Envo to some
20 Exchange
21 Egyptian
22 Tossing
23 Specialist
24 Outburst
25 Ill city
27 Tossing places
28 Planets
31 Wife of Zeus
32 Tonal material
33 Post Robert
34 Fasten a
35 Call it a —
36 Australian
37 range horse
38 Frodo
40 Passage
42 Spend time
43 Famous tenor
46 Start
47 Unconquering
48 Ax handles
50 Centaur slain
51 by Hercules
52 Hospital per-
sonnel alter-
ego
53 Oncomet by
clemens
55 Jalopy
57 Denier
58 Devoured
59 — hat
60 Rednecks
61 Arab city

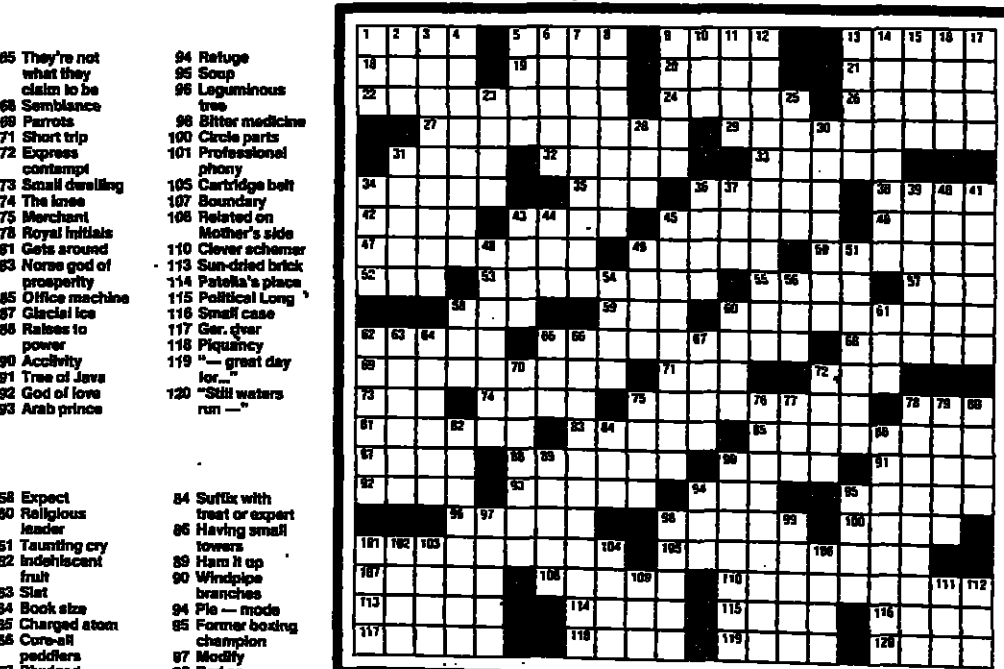
DOWN

1 Orange
2 Connection
3 Those with
talking ways
4 Recipient of
a special degree
5 Fur
6 That is
7 Miffed
8 Lowest
9 Impudent
10 Expression of
aversion
11 VHS display
12 Bluffing
13 Cans
14 Synthetic
15 Neglect
16 Singlet
17 God of thunder
22 Wagon
25 Exhausts
26 Judge
27 Thaw
28 Macho type
29 Recipient of
a special degree
30 Floor
31 Boat size
32 Book size
33 Charged atom
34 Cornball
35 Peddler
37 Divided
38 Hoist part
39 Rival
40 Grapes
41 Put under
surveillance
42 Fences
43 Fences
44 Fences
45 Fences
46 Fences
47 Fences
48 Fences
49 Fences
50 Unruly group

Diagramless

17 X 17, by Mary Coo Whitton

ACROSS
1 Smokey's need
2 Indignation
3 Nostalgia
10 With his cream
12 Hay of
13 Crows
14 Odorous
17 Author Andre
18 Partner for
tack
21 Tack
24 — Vegas
25 Edict
26 Dry as bone
28 Enthusiasm
31 Whorehouse
32 Saffron's cry
33 Crows
34 Odorous
37 Wood sorrel
38 "Good Earth"
40 Excavate
41 Bear's place
43 Hyde Park
vehicle
44 Piece for
thieves
45 Indignation
46 Feliciano
47 Paraphrase
48 Tube for soda
50 Actress Parov
51 Bear's river
54 Beglike
55 Gambling game
60 Unruly group
61 Abundant fish
62 Pub quaffs
63 Egg white
64 Flea-de-
65 Flea-de-
66 Flea-de-
67 Flea-de-
68 Flea-de-
69 Flea-de-
70 Flea-de-
71 Flea-de-
72 Flea-de-
73 Flea-de-
74 Flea-de-
75 Flea-de-
76 Flea-de-
77 Flea-de-
78 Flea-de-
79 Flea-de-
80 Flea-de-



Last Week's Cryptograms

- If a product is labeled "new, improved," you can tell it will be in fact smaller in quantity, poorer in quality, and more expensive.
- Key West trivia: the myriad kittens at Benjamin's home still have seven toes, as did his cute doberman dog.
- Medals have served fresh fried fish from silver salvers.
- Lipstick salesperson sold two new red color kits to last.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. M GMB CMB DANAOMLERE PZPMNNE GAMEZ
M OHL RQ QRRC MEC QPE MEC QRNED.

—By Connie Rosenfeld

2. KYD ZYKXWDFGP EYZWOSWLC O POT
CWLUYBL ZYILOWS UYED WE SWIG O POT
CWLUYBL FYUEURWG.

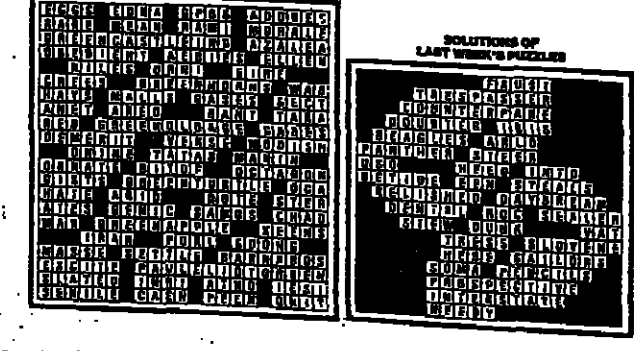
—By Frances Marcus

3. EYEBOLP UWICYT STIPATH TULHTFLP
UYBUBSLBOX HYSLOC RAT FLREWY
ICTX.

—By E.P. Grover

4. "SPOOK" REPLIN SNUGPAN ULEFG PXIK
QANUGPANY ANUIK YQUANR KEPOXYCNA.

—By Philip P. Brennan



©1985 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.